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THE VERMEER FAMILY

HISTORY AND GENEALOGY

Published by

Gary and Harry Vermeer

Written by

Mrs. John C. Vander Hart
Professor J. G. Vanden Bosch
Stanley Vermeer

1963
Pella, Iowa

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Vander Hart, Mrs. John C.
The Vermeer family history and genealogy, (1856-1963), written by Mrs. John C. Vander Hart, Prof. J. G. Vanden Bosch, Stanley Vermeer. Pella, Iowa, Gary and Harry Vermeer, 1963.

GENEALOGY

880L2 101p. illus. 28cm.

1973431

Rec'd Oct 19-1977

We wish to acknowledge that Ralph J. Vermeer was one of those instrumental in beginning this history, but he passed away before its completion.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who assisted in making this book possible; and especially Mrs. John C. Vander Hart, Professor J. G. Vanden Bosch, and Stanley Vermeer for writing the script and collecting most of the information. There are, no doubt, some errors and omissions, but they are unintentional. While this book falls short of perfection, we have endeavored to do the best with the records and materials which were available.

It is our hope that, fifty years from now, some descendant of Brant Vermeer will bring this history of the Vermeer family in America up-to-date.

Gary and Harry Vermeer

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EARLY HISTORY

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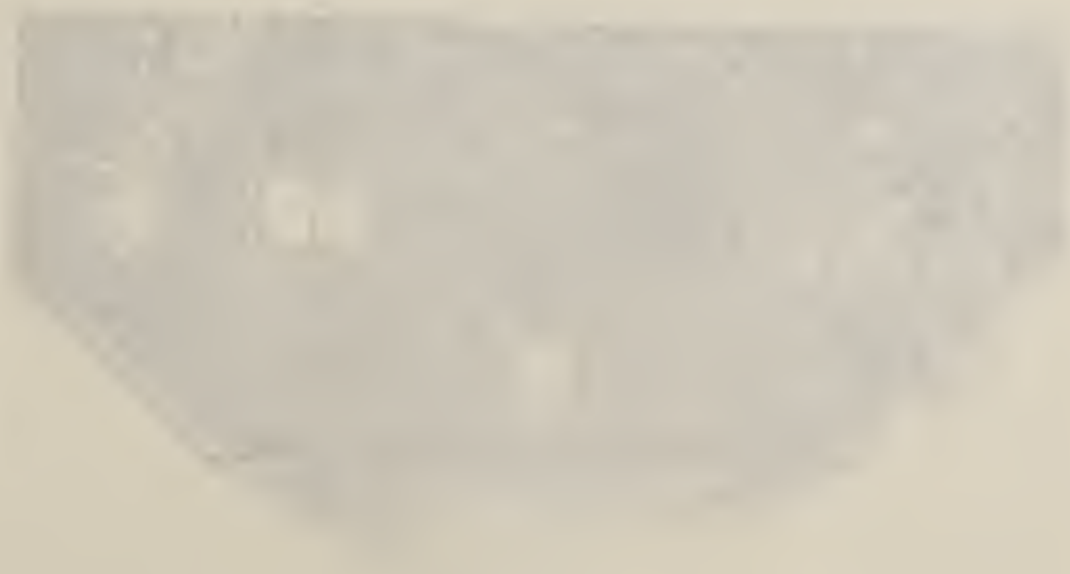
Brant Vermeer home in Mooi Lunteren, Holland

The tide of immigration from Holland to America that began in 1847 brought Brant Vermeer and wife and four sons to Pella, Iowa. Some immigrants, perhaps because they were weary of traveling and the opportunities for making a living were good, decided to stay near the gateway of America and settled in New York and New Jersey. Others under the leadership of Dr. A. C. Van Raalte and Rev. C. Vander Meulen chose the wooded area of Western Michigan as their new home. A third group followed the Rev. Henry P. Scholte, who deemed it more advantageous to settle on the prairies of Iowa to begin life in the new world. Brant Vermeer came to these shores in 1856, nine years later. He did not come alone. He was one of more than two hundred Hollanders that were added to the population of the Pella community that year by immigration from Holland.

What induced Brant Vermeer to pull up stakes, cross the Atlantic Ocean, and start anew in the unsubdued wilderness of Iowa? One of the motives of the very first pioneers led by Rev. Scholte was to escape persecution and to enjoy freedom of worship, but this motive was not a consideration in the thinking of Brant Vermeer when he made his decision, since the government of Holland had changed its policy of stern repression and had assumed a more tolerant attitude to the Seceders. Nor was it poverty that influenced his decision, for Brant Vermeer was a fairly well-to-do farmer. The reason that prompted him was that America, in his judgment, held out better prospects for making a comfortable living for himself and four sons than did Holland. The agricultural situation at that time was not promising.



The Vermeers came from Mooi Lunteren, little more than a crossroads, a mile or two from Lunteren, which in turn is several miles east of Utrecht in the province of Gelderland, an earldom of considerable importance in the history of the Netherlands. At that time it was, and still is, a pleasant rural community. Had there been a Goldsmith living there, he might have sung: "Sweet Lunteren, loveliest village of the plain."

Scenes near
Mooi Lunteren

The old Vermeer home at Lunteren
July 29, 1935

A scene on the old Vermeer farmstead
at Lunteren with the present occupant
Meneer Hooiger claiming attention
July 29, 1935

In 1935, when a granddaughter visited the old farmstead, the home in which Brant Vermeer and family had resided, house and barn under one roof, was still intact. In 1958, when a great granddaughter and her husband viewed the place, part of the roof had fallen in and the house was in a dilapidated state.

Brant Vermeer, a bachelor, was all of forty years old when he married the widow Teunetje Pothoven, nee Krukland, mother of one son whose name was Otto. During her widowhood she had been employed by a rich family in Amsterdam to do housework, a circumstance that must have made her feel ill at ease in the crude surroundings of Pella. Teunetje was a sincere and sensible Christian. When a friend rebuked her for washing dishes on Sunday, she quickly and aptly retorted, "Alle vuiligheid is geen heiligheid," which translated reads, Filthiness is not holiness.

Farming in the Netherlands in Brant Vermeer's days employed primitive methods and called for hard work. Most of the work was done by hand. To keep soil productive, farmers availed themselves of every possible means of making fertilizers, cutting weeds and throwing them into the sheep's pen to add to the manure pile, and saving even the urine of cattle. To smoke them, hams were hung in the chimney of the hearth. Porridge was eaten from a common bowl placed at the center of the table.

If one goes to Ede, a city near Lunteren, to ascertain information about the Vermeers, he will find the officials of the "Gemmentehuis" most helpful in securing such facts as they have.

As has been hinted, Brant Vermeer was not a poor man. Realizing, however, that the outlook for the farmer was gradually growing worse and that the future of his children was his responsibility, he decided to leave for America. He sold his farm to the grandfather of Will Vande Voort and hid the cash in a belt that he wore around his waist day and night.

The voyage across the ocean was made in a sailing vessel that was comparatively small and lacked the sanitary facilities the ocean liners have today. To be huddled in such a hulk did not promise a pleasant sea journey. To be on the ocean thirty to forty-eight days (tradition differs) was itself a severe test of the perseverance of the emigrants and of faith in their venture. There were disagreeable experiences enough to undermine their courage. Sometimes the captain used a rope with knots tied in it to chase sleepy passengers out of bed. Sickness broke out among the passengers and death, whose coming could be sensed because of the odor exuding from the body of a dying person, took its toll. Bread or hard tack had to be soaked in water dipped from the ocean, if it was to be eaten at all. Storms, too, had to be braved. Watching fishes sport around the boat or seeing whales spout spires of water were pastimes that could not compensate for the miseries experienced.

The stretch between New York and Iowa City was made by train. To travel the distance from Iowa City to Pella, the Dutch newcomers bought a yoke of oxen, a team of horses and two wagons. Roads were rough, streams to be forded were often treacherous, so that traveling was hazardous and slow. The team of oxen was dispatched long before the horses set out, the idea being that all would arrive at the camping place at noon at the same time; but in the evening those traveling with the horses had the camp in readiness when the group traveling with the oxen arrived. On the last lap of this pilgrimage, Hendrick, eleven year old son of Brant Vermeer, got lost near Montezuma. Setting out alone in

the hope of overtaking the group traveling with the oxen, he came to a crossroad and took the wrong trail. He soon discovered that he was lost and gripped with fear, he frantically ran all day until he overtook a company of American travelers. The poor lad was unable to communicate his plight to them, but one of them, surmising that he belonged to a company of Dutch trekkers and knowing the course of their journey, restored him to his anxious parents.

Finally these Dutch pilgrims reached their destination after a long and tedious journey of several weeks beset with many difficulties and disheartening experiences. But their courage had not abated; they were fully determined to press forward. The first thing that Brant Vermeer did was to buy an eighty acre tract of land two miles east, one mile north, one mile east and one-half mile north of the city, today owned by Herman Nollen. Presumably the belt worn around his waist was discarded. Upon this tract of land there stood a one room log cabin. This cabin has been described as containing a large fireplace at the south end into which a log was rolled with enough small chunks alongside it to ensure burning. Sleeping quarters were on the second floor or attic having only the roof between the sleepers and the sky and entered only from the outside by means of a ladder. This opening was on the south side of the cabin. Light was provided by tallow candles which were made by Mrs. Vermeer. She had a mold which held one dozen forms. She placed strings into the metal molds and poured the molten tallow about the strings. The first few nights the Vermeers were sheltered by the Veenschotens who lived near by. In this crude home Brant Vermeer and family lived twelve years.

Abstract of the farm of Brant Vermeer, where Leslie Bogaards now lives

I

UNITED STATES to John J. Sears	Certificate of purchase dated April 3, 1848, and entered in Abstract of Original Entries.

Certifies that John J. Sears entered the SE$\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31, Township 77, Range 17.

II

John J. Sears and (signs J.J.) Ann Eliza (wife) to Reuben Roark	Warranty Deed, dated October 2, 1854, filed December 26, 1855, and recorded in Book H, page 363.

Conveys the SE$\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31, Township 77, Range 17.

III

Reuben Roark to Fielding Betts	Mortgage, dated November 27, 1855, filed December 26, 1855, and recorded in Book H, page 364.

Encumbers the SE$\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31, Township 77, Range 17.

IV

On the margin of page 364, Book H, we find the following notation: "For value received I Acknowledge full payment of mortgage this November 27, 1858. Fielding Betts."

V

Reuben Roark and Catherine (wife) to J. B. Earl	Warranty Deed, dated February 8, 1867, filed February 16, 1867, and recorded in Book Z, page 189.

Conveys the SE$\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31, Township 77, Range 17.

VI

Jonas B. Earl (signs J.B.) to Brant Vermeer	Warranty Deed, dated October 11, 1867, filed October 19, 1867, and recorded in Book I, page 328.

Conveys the SE$\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31, Township 77, Range 17.

Estate
of
Brant Vermeer

Transcript certified by the Clerk of the District Court in and for Marion County, Iowa, January 18, 1901 filed in the office of the District Court in and for Mahaska County, Iowa, January 23, 1901 and entered at length in Will Record C, page 374.

Certifies that due notice of probation was had and that the will of Brant Vermeer was probated in Marion County, Iowa, June 3, 1873 in words and figures as follows:

"I, Brand Vermeer, a native of the Kingdom of the NETHERLANDS now a resident of the County of Mahaska and State of Iowa, being in full possession of a sound mind and memory knowing the frailty of this transitory life do hereby make, ordain and publish this my last will and testiment, revoking all former wills made by me or under my directions. I give and bequeath the whole of my estate both real and personal to my lawful wedded wife Teunestje Vermeer who shall have and hold the same, derive all the benefits therefrom; shall have power to sell any or all portion of the personal property, but the real estate shall not be sold nor conveyed unless necessary for the support of my children. In case my said wife, after my decease shall marry again, and by so doing, should cease to be my widow, she shall only be entitled to retain one-third of my property, and the remainder to be set aside to be divided among my children when they become of age, as follows: My stepson Otto Pothoven shall receive one-fourth part of my personal property, so remaining, as his full and his entire portion of my estate. My three sons, Gerrit, Anthony and Hendrick Vermeer shall be entitled each to one-fourth of my personal property and one-third of my real estate. The same rule will also be observed and be acted upon in dividing the estate after my wife's decease, if she shall die still being my widow. I do further appoint my wife as Administrator of my estate after my decease and she shall not be required when entering upon the discharge of that duty to give any bond or security whatever.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 29th day of November A.D., 1859."

B. Vermeer

(Duly Witnessed)

Now the members of the Vermeer family were workers in a new world. How different life in the east prairie was from what they had been accustomed to in the homeland. Wildlife abounded. Often as the men set out to work in the field, deer suddenly leaped out of their hiding places and bounded away among the bushes and shrubbery. Quail were plentiful, concealing themselves till almost trodden upon, then flying up in coveys with drumming of wings and startling the unsuspecting footman. Best loved of all the birds were the wild turkeys. These were proud birds, a little smaller than the domesticated species we know today. Fond of corn, they had no scruples about helping themselves to the riches of a farmer's crib, where with a simple device the resourceful farmer learned to catch them. Ducks, too, were numerous, but hard to bag, so wary they were. And still present in the Pella area were immense flocks of wild pigeons, which in their flight resembled a cloud sailing above the earth. Frequently they lighted in or near barnyards, where farmers caught them alive by means of the simple contrivance of a net placed on sticks which they suddenly jerked away while the birds were feeding under the net. Wildlife was an important source for the food supply of the pioneers. Moreover, all their toil sometimes resulted in bitter disappointment, since they had to contend with depredations of wild animals and pests. Deer and turkeys robbed Brant Vermeer of the harvest of his first planting of corn.

Buffalo, which once had roamed over the Iowa prairies in immense herds, had been forced to seek their grazing farther west. Indians were frequent visitors still, but did not molest the white settlers though the battle of the Little Big Horn in which General Custer and his men were massacred was fought in Montana as late as the year 1876.

The Dutch pioneers learned that making a livelihood in the new world meant toil, unremitting toil. The first task facing them was the construction of a shelter for the family, either in the form of a sod hut or a log cabin. Next, there was the sod to be broken for cultivation. This sod was thick and tough and required a strong plough drawn by six oxen to tear it up. Moreover, it yielded but slowly to the forces of decomposition. Planting corn was done by hand. One man ploughed a slight furrow, another dropped three kernels of corn at every pace, and a third with a small instrument called a dumper covered the kernels and leveled the soil. To cultivate the corn, a simple machine equipped with three shovels and drawn by one horse was used. Only one row could be finished in one round. Harvesting corn called for the most exhausting efforts of the whole process; five rows, two on each side of the wagon and one under it, were stripped of their ears by human hands and tossed into the wagon box. The heaviest part of the job was discharging the load of corn by shoveling it into the crib. Wheat was cut by means of a cradle and bundled by hand. Thus, only with unremitting toil all the crops were raised and harvested.

What was Pella like when Brant Vermeer first saw it in 1856? Let Professor Henry S. Lucas tell us as he does in his book Netherlanders in America.

"During these years, Pella was a primitive prairie community. A traveler in the fall of 1854 entering Pella from the west, by the State Road (Staatsweg, according to Scholte's map of 1848), found himself, in turning the corner, on Franklin Street, Pella's main street. There he saw a row of buildings, some homely log houses, some frame buildings, and a few stone structures which would do credit to a large city. One low frame building bore the sign 'American Hotel' and this hotel filled a definite need, for Pella, situated on the State Road which followed the ridge of the prairie between the Des Moines and the Skunk rivers, was the inevitable stopping place for travelers to and from the central parts of the state. There were a number of businesses also, fifteen or seventeen in all: a grocer, a hardware store, and a butcher's shop, to mention a few. Only the plainest articles, those essential to a simple farming community, were generally for sale. Nevertheless, Pella had its book store, housed in an unsightly wooden shack bearing the sign 'Books'. Here some books could be bought as well as Harper's Magazine and various newspapers, both American and from the Netherlands.

"No expensive walks lined Franklin Street. Wood, of course, was scarce and costly, not to be wasted on boardwalks. People moved along this main street over paths of crushed limestone. During summer these were passable enough, for the sun baked the prairie earth until, trod by many feet, it became hard as brick. But with the autumn rains the paths turned to mud which hardened with the icy temperatures of winter but reverted to mud again in the spring. In summer, weeds grew luxuriantly on the streets and vacant lots. Cattle roved the prairie, which extended, unfenced, to the edge of town, as shown in Nollen's two pictures. Pigs rooted wherever they wished. Just as the farmers on the prairie fenced in their fields, so the dwellers in Pella provided their lots with similar protection--board or picket fences--against pigs and cattle. The lots were large and so were the gardens around the houses. This was a novel feature in a town on the Iowa prairie, because of it Pella gained the title 'Garden City'."

Such was the city of Pella--it had been incorporated in 1855--when Brant Vermeer arrived. It boasted a population of about 750 souls; that of the community as a whole was almost 2,000. It was not an auspicious time for pioneers to come. The scourge of cholera that invaded the town in 1854 had caused people to avoid Pella and had wrought great loss to business. The dreaded disease of small pox that broke out in 1856 was no less disastrous to the economic life of the community. The nation-wide financial crisis of 1857 also affected Pella even though the only bank of the settlement under the control of Jan Nollen did not, as many others did, fail. Money was not easy to obtain, employment that brought in some cash was hard to get. The boys of Brant Vermeer received only twenty cents for a day's work.

In 1867, Brant Vermeer purchased a 160 acre farm, one of the finest in East Prairie region, a mile nearer to Pella, which is now occupied by Leslie Bogaards. After Anthonie was married, Brant moved to the city to live the life of a retired farmer, Mrs. Vermeer went to live with her son Anthonie and family after Brant's death. Hendrick, the youngest son, became the owner of the ancestral estate and made it his home until the year 1894. A temporary dwelling for Hendrick and his wife when he married was erected a few rods east of the brick house. When

vacated, this simple house was used by the First Christian Reformed Church to conduct catechism classes for the children of the neighborhood irrespective of ecclesiastical affiliations.

Whether or not Mr. and Mrs. Vermeer had joined the Secession of 1834, or were still members of the state church, we do not know, but we do know that, taking their Christianity seriously, they, upon arrival in Pella, identified themselves with the independent church of Rev. Scholte. As soon, however, as a Christian Reformed Church was organized, they transferred their allegiance to this body. Many of their descendants have been and still are loyal members of this church and have served it in various capacities: as elder, as deacon, as workers in the Sunday School, or as an active participant in one or more of its societies. At one time there were thirty-three Vermeer families in the Pella First Christian Reformed Church.

Brant Vermeer was the son of Gerrit Vermeer and Brandse Aaltje Vermeer. Brant had a younger brother Teunis. His descendants are as follows:

Teunis Vermeer
Born: June 28, 1801

Married
Aartje Van Veen
Their child
Aard Vermeer March 17, 1832 -

* * * * * *

Aard Vermeer
Born: March 17, 1832

Married
Trynte Van Veldhuizen
Their Child
Teunis Vermeer May 19, 1864 -

* * * * * *

Teunis Vermeer
Born: May 19, 1864

Married
Kruyf Gerrits
Their Child
Aart Jan Vermeer March 9, 1906 -

* * * * * *

Aart Jan Vermeer
Born: March 9, 1906

Married
H. Nyburg
Their Child
Teunis Vermeer

In the picture:
Aart Jan Vermeer (center)
with his wife at his right

Mrs. Brant Vermeer

(No picture of Brant Vermeer was available)

BRANT VERMEER FAMILY

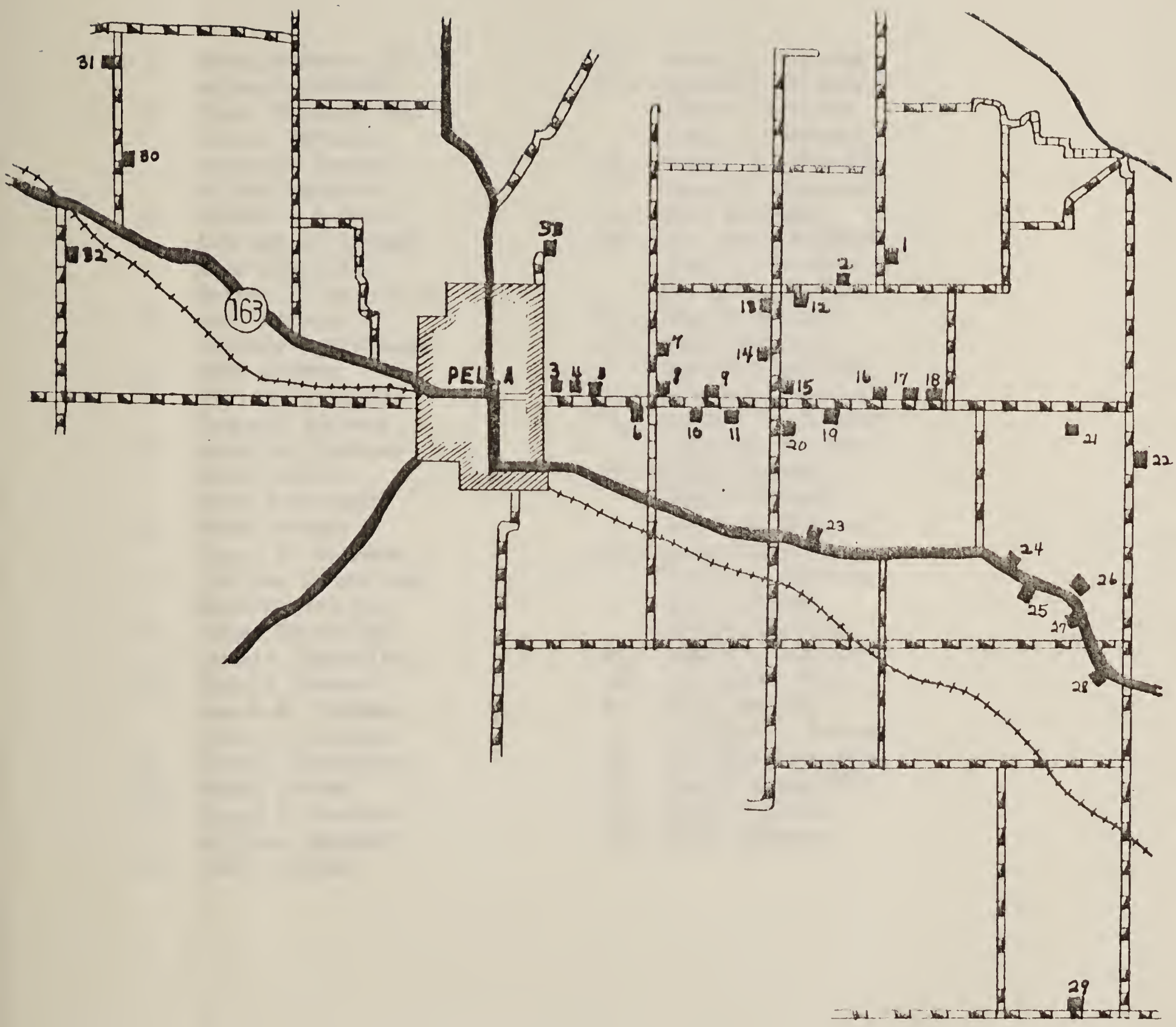
Brant Vermeer
Born: January 2, 1798
Died: May 5, 1872

Married
Weimpje Hendricks
Married
Teunetje (Krukland) Pothoven
Born: December 30, 1805
Died: January 24, 1890

Their Children

Anthonie Vermeer	October 14, 1843 - December 17, 1920
Gerrit Vermeer	October 14, 1843 - May 30, 1923
Hendrick Vermeer	December 5, 1845 - July 30, 1927
Otto Pothoven	July 18, 1839 - December 23, 1900

Anthonie, Gerrit, and Hendrick Vermeer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The map on the opposite page shows the various farms around Pella where Brant Vermeer, his sons, and grandchildren lived, and where his great grandchildren lived or are living in 1963.

1. Brant Vermeer (Sr.)
   Anthonie Vermeer
2. Brant Vermeer (Sr.)
   Gerrit Vermeer
   Hendrick Vermeer
   Willem Vermeer
3. Anthonie Vermeer
   Anthony A. Vermeer
   Nick Meppelink
   Herman P. Meppelink
4. Neal Vermeer
   Anthony J. Vermeer
5. Neal Huyser
6. William Vermeer
   Gysbert Vermeer
7. Hendrick Vermeer
   Paul Vermeer
   Harold Vermeer
8. Bert Vermeer
   Henry B. Vermeer
9. Jim Van Houweling
   Anthony Van Zee
10. Peter Tysseling
    Gerrit Tysseling
11. Gerrit Vermeer
    Jacob G. Vermeer
    John H. Vermeer
12. Albert Tysseling
13. Henry Jansen
14. Henry H. Vermeer
    Willard Vermeer
15. Gary Vermeer
16. Jacob J. Vermeer
17. Anthonie Vermeer
    John A. Vermeer
    Tunis J. Vermeer
18. Gerrit A. Vermeer
    Tunis G. Vermeer
19. Nick Menninga
20. Art Van Donselaar
    John A. Vermeer
    Gerald Meppelink
21. Gerrit Vermeer
22. Nick Meppelink
    Gerald Meppelink
23. Art Van Donselaar
24. Albert T. Vermeer
    Jacob A. Vermeer
25. Brant Vermeer
    Edward Vermeer
    Jacob A. Vermeer
26. Jacob Vermeer
    Tunis A. Vermeer
    Otto Vermeer
    Edward Vermeer
27. Tunis A. Vermeer
28. The Smith House
29. Otto Vermeer
    Anthony O. Vermeer
30. Jim Van Houweling
31. Gerald Meppelink
32. Elmer Vermeer
33. Neal Vermeer

20-21-22

ANTHONIE VERMEER

FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Anthonie Vermeer

Anthonie Vermeer was 13 years old when he came to Pella with his parents, twin brother Gerrit, younger brother Hendrick and step-brother Otto Pothoven. The story of the voyage from Holland to America and thence to Pella has already been recorded in this book. When Anthonie married Alida De Bruin, they settled down to a life of farming, first farming the Vermeer property two miles east, one mile north, and one mile east of Pella. Before his brothers Gerrit and Hendrick were married, they boarded and farmed with Anthonie. The brothers farmed the property where Leslie Bogaards and Herman Nollen now live.

In 1881, Anthonie bought a 160 acre farm two and one-half miles east of Pella from Harding Tice. This farm was later divided in half and farmed by his sons John and Gerrit; today the same property is farmed by Anthonie's grandsons, Tunis J. and Tunis G. Vermeer. Anthonie also bought 320 acres of land known as the Voorhees property for the sum of $20,000. This is the property with the "Big Brick House" and was farmed by several of Anthonie's descendants.

Anthonie retired from farming in 1903 and moved to the edge of Pella where Herman P. Meppelink and his family now reside. In 1917, his grandson, Anthony A. Vermeer, and wife came to make their home with him and one year later they moved to 812 East Second Street where he died in 1920 at the age of 77 years.

ANTHONIE VERMEER FAMILY

Anthonie Vermeer
Born: October 14, 1843
Died: December 17, 1920

Married April 22, 1868 to
Alida De Bruin
Born: October 30, 1847
Died: December 18, 1915

Their Children

Brant Vermeer	January 12, 1869 - July 6, 1948
Jacob Vermeer	August 22, 1871 - August 4, 1905
Tunis Vermeer	December 25, 1873 - March 7, 1918
Will Vermeer	December 9, 1876 - April 30, 1961
Otto Vermeer	August 19, 1879 - October 29, 1957
John Vermeer	April 13, 1882 - December 20, 1952
Gerrit Vermeer	August 29, 1884 -
Neal Vermeer	April 12, 1888 -

* * * * * *

Picture of the sons of Anthonie Vermeer taken in the 1940's.

Back Row: Otto, Neal, Gerrit

Front Row: Brant, Will, John

The three story wooden house two and one-half miles east of Pella in which Anthonie Vermeer, his son, John Vermeer, and his grandson, Tunis J. Vermeer lived. The house was built by Harding Tice.

This is the "Big Brick House" in which four Vermeer families lived at different times. The house was built in 1871 by John Voorhees, a German. John Smith had built a large white wooden house one-half mile south of Voorhees' property, and Voorhees, as the legend goes, set out to build a bigger house. The brick house has three stories and is 68 by 44 feet. It is rumored that Voorhees went heavily into debt because the house cost double what he could afford.

Brant Vermeer Family

Brant Vermeer
Born: January 12, 1869
Died: July 6, 1948

Married March 17, 1892 to
Gysbertha Tysseling
Born: April 17, 1870
Died: February 14, 1962

Their Children

Anthony A. Vermeer	March 6, 1893 -
Albert T. Vermeer	February 20, 1895 -
Morris H. Vermeer	March 29, 1899 -
Edward Vermeer	December 6, 1902 -
Jacob A. Vermeer	September 8, 1910 -

* * * * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Brant Vermeer

Brant Vermeer, the eldest son of Anthonie and Alida Vermeer, was married to Gysbertha Tysseling in 1892. They began their married life on a farm located approximately five miles east of Pella on Highway 163, where their youngest son, Jacob, is now living. In 1927 they left the farm and moved to 907 Independence Street, Pella, Iowa. After approximately five years of city life, they returned to the farm in March, 1933. In 1938 they returned to city living and in 1944 moved to 911 Independence, sharing the home of their son Edward and family. After Brant's death in 1948, Mrs. Vermeer remained with Edward and family until her death in 1962.

When Brant's eldest son, Anthony, married in 1917, he and his bride lived with his grandfather Anthonie for approximately one year on a small farm at the edge of Pella. After moving to 812 East Second Street they continued to care for their grandfather until his death. In 1926 they moved to 415 West First Street. This home is now being used as living quarters by college personnel. When Brant moved to 911 Independence, Anthony and his family moved to 907 Independence, the home vacated by Brant. Through the years Central College continued to progress and expansion necessitated the purchase of the homes in the 900 block of Independence Street. Therefore, in 1961 Anthony and his wife Johanna moved to 506 West First Street.

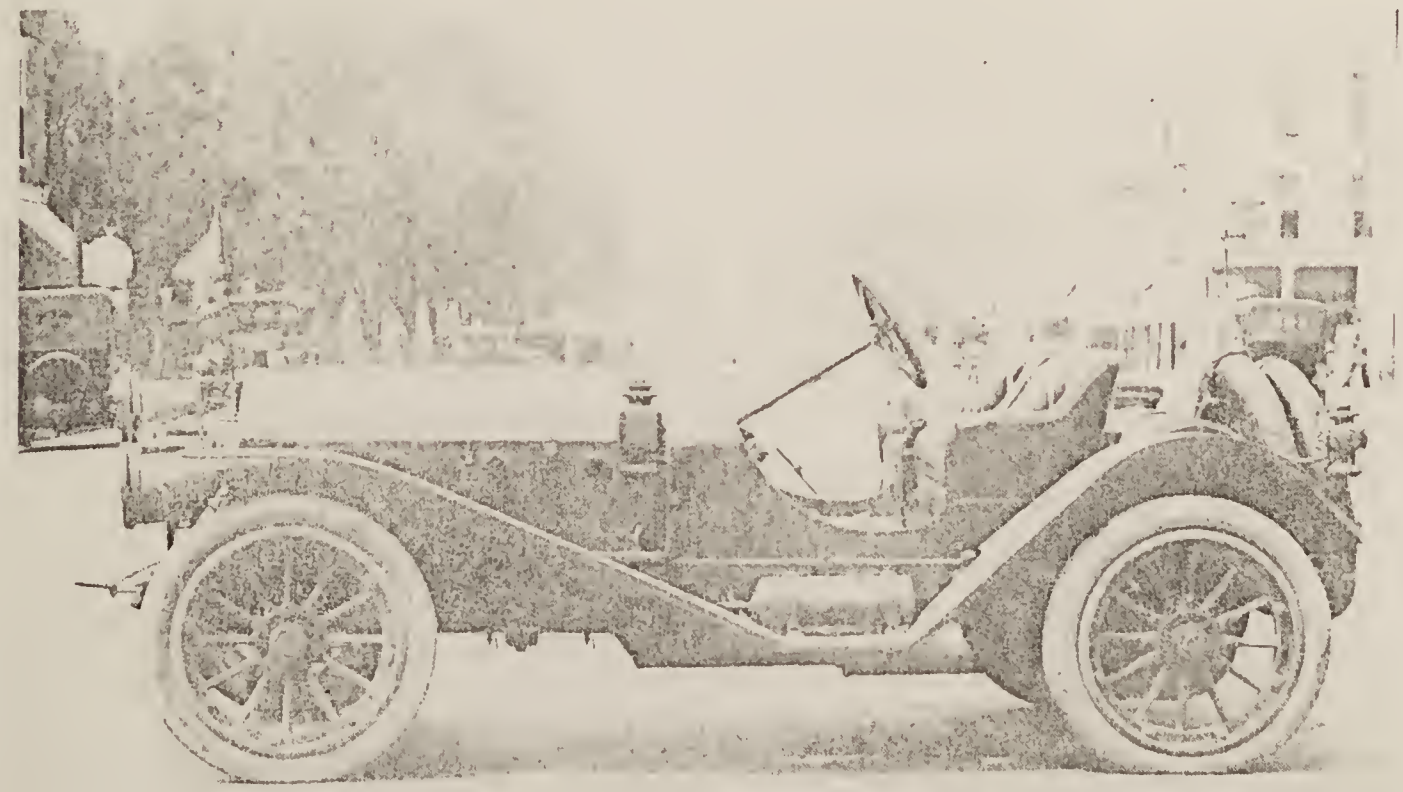
January 16, 1948--fire at White Way Auto Company in Pella

Anthony spent many years as owner of the White Way Auto Company, beginning in 1917 when he and his Uncle Herman Tysseling purchased it. The White Way was originally located at 723 Main Street. In 1920 it was moved to 704 Main, replacing the Schrubring Hotel which was torn down. In December of 1919, the company received its first Chevrolet car and has sold and serviced them since that time. After being in business with his uncle for a little over a year, Anthony took as his partner Mr. Leonard Wielard. In 1942, Mr. Wielard left the White Way and Morris Vermeer, Elias Kolenbrander and Albert Van Heukelom became Anthony's partners until he retired in 1958.

On January 16, 1948, the White Way Auto Company was completely destroyed by fire. Eleven months later on December 18, a completely new building with modern equipment was open for public inspection.

Interior of Garage at 723 Main
Left to right: Albert Vermeer, Lane Rus, Mr. Wielard, and A.A. Vermeer

Interior of Garage at 704 Main before it was destroyed by fire in 1948. From left to right: Albert Van Heukelom, A. A. Vermeer and Mr. Wielard.



1907 Chadwick Auto which won First Place at the New York World's Fair in 1907. Photo taken in 1918 on Pella's Main Street.

A. A. Vermeer bought the 1907 Chadwick from a gentleman in Oskaloosa in 1918. The following year he sold it again to a gentleman living in Des Moines. At the time of purchase, the new owner felt sure that he could make it to Des Moines, a distance of about 45 miles, in 45 minutes. Although it was a very fast car, A. A. cautioned him to take at least an hour and a half, as he was not yet accustomed to the auto. The following day the new owner, along with a companion, decided to try it out and see just how fast it could travel. During this try-out, the car left the road and hit a telegraph pole, killing the owner and critically injuring his companion.

Albert T. Vermeer spent the first five years of his married life on a farm located just west of his father's farm on Highway 163. In 1927 he moved his family to Pella and started the Star Oil Company. In 1934 his family moved from 1207 Broadway to 906 Union. In 1945 A. T. left the Star Oil Company and operated the Coast to Coast Store for approximately four years. Although retired from active business, A. T. does find many things to occupy his time, for example--driving a school bus for five years.

Morris Vermeer has been and still is active in the White Way Auto Company and resides at 922 Main Street in Pella.

Edward and his wife spent the first five and one-half years of their married life on the "home place"; then they moved to the "Big Brick House" just east of the "home place". They lived in the brick house for approximately 12 years. Due to ill health, Edward found it necessary to leave the farm and moved with his family to 911 Independence Street, Pella, Iowa. Since then Edward has kept busy, and at present he does some crop farming. In 1961 they moved to a new home at 512 West First Street.

Jacob began married life on the same farm where Albert spent the first years of his married life. In 1938 he moved with his family to the "home place". Jacob is the only one of Brant Vermeer's sons who has remained very active in the field of agriculture.

Back Row: Albert, Morris, Edward
Front Row: Anthony, Mrs. Brant Vermeer, Jacob

Anthony A. Vermeer
Born: March 6, 1893
Died:

Married December 20, 1917 to
Johanna Kolenbrander
Born: April 9, 1890
Died:

Their Children

Gladys Alyda Vermeer	September 26, 1918 -
Bernard Wilbur Vermeer	February 14, 1920 -
Byron Elmer Vermeer	January 28, 1922 -
Melvin Roy Vermeer	June 30, 1928 -
Janice Ann Vermeer	November 24, 1932 -

Back Row: Melvin, Gladys, Janice, and Byron Vermeer
Front Row: Bernard, Mrs. A. A. Vermeer, and A. A. Vermeer

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Gladys Alyda Vermeer
Born: September 26, 1918
Died:

Married February 13, 1941 to
Cornie Vos
Born: October 7, 1919
Died:

Their Children

Sue Ann Vos	April 9, 1944 -
Rickie Lee Vos	November 17, 1946 -
Keith Loren Vos	January 30, 1951 -

Bernard Wilbur Vermeer
Born: February 14, 1920
Died:

Married February 24, 1944 to
Dorothy Van Leinden
Born: January 18, 1922
Died:

Their Children

Alvin Gene Vermeer	July 22, 1945 -
Kenneth Lee Vermeer	December 1, 1951 -
David Bryce Vermeer	January 17, 1958 -

* * * * * *

Byron Elmer Vermeer
Born: January 28, 1922
Died:

Married June 11, 1948 to
Evelena Van Hemert
Born: June 11, 1923
Died:

* * * * * *

Melvin Roy Vermeer
Born: June 30, 1928
Died:

Married June 8, 1949 to
Alice Van Hemert
Born: January 7, 1930
Died:

Their Children

Stuart Wesley Vermeer	October 25, 1950 -
Ruth Ann Vermeer	November 22, 1953 -
Timothy Scott Vermeer	March 13, 1961 -

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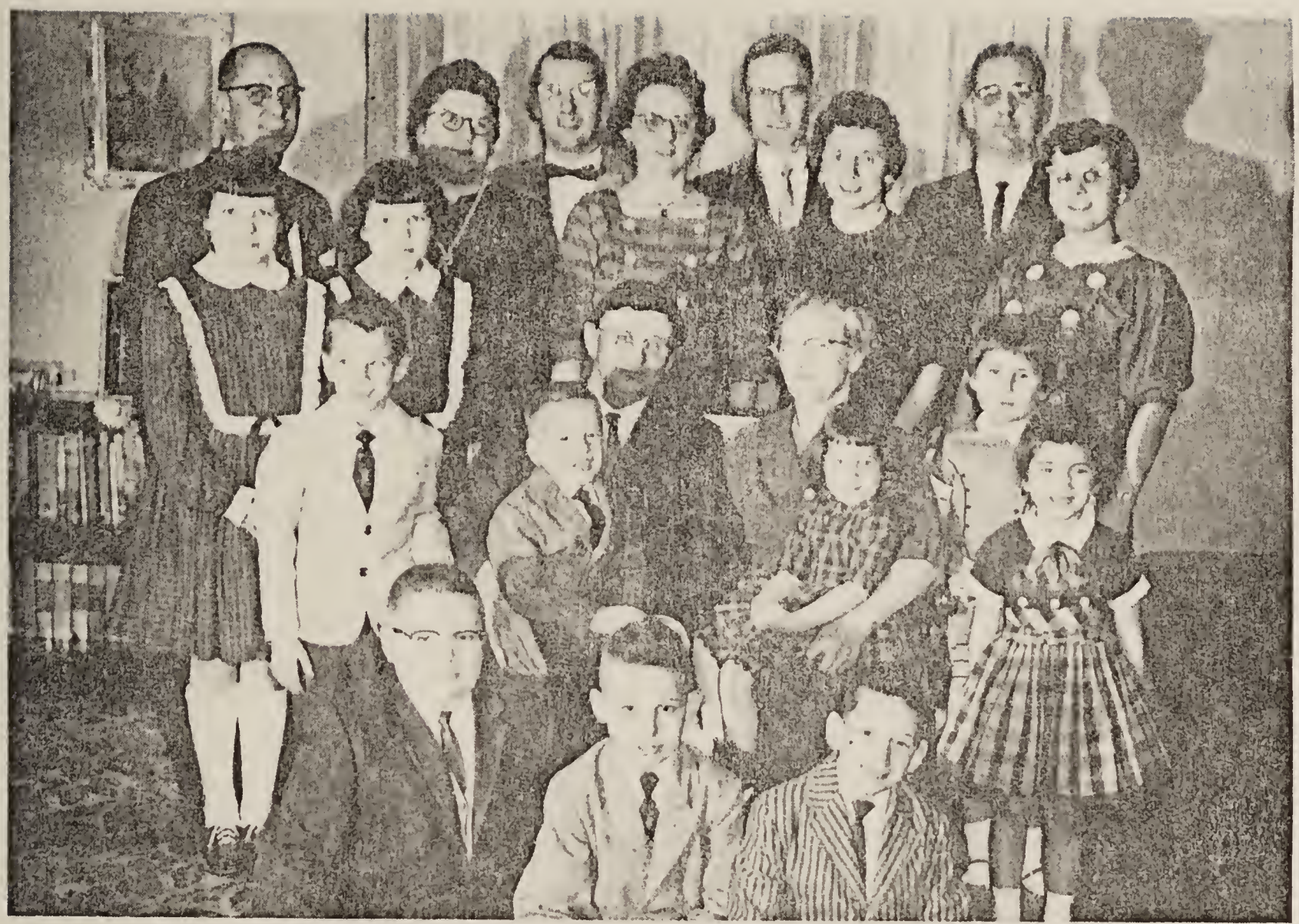
Janice Ann Vermeer
Born: November 24, 1932
Died:

Married September 14, 1951 to
Loren Van Der Wert
Born: July 2, 1931
Died:

Their Children

Jackie Louann Van Der Wert	March 3, 1953 -
Jerry Lee Van Der Wert	October 20, 1954 -
Janna Lynn Van Der Wert	February 13, 1958 -
Jean Leann Van Der Wert	December 30, 1959 -



Albert T. Vermeer Family

Back Row, left to right: Bud, Helene, Dale, Ednabel, Dick, Ruth, John, and Bertha
Middle Row: Janna, Janice, Michael, Mark, A.T. Vermeer, Mrs. A.T. Vermeer, Joy, Becky, and Mary
Front Row: Jay, Jerry, and Ricky

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Albert T. Vermeer
Born: February 20, 1895
Died:

Married June 1, 1921 to
Jennie Van Heukelom
Born: July 8, 1902
Died:

Their Children

Bud (Wilbur Roy) Vermeer	January 7, 1922 -
Gysbertha Vermeer	March 27, 1926 -
Ruth Vermeer	April 24, 1927 -
Ednabel Vermeer	March 6, 1933 -

Bud Vermeer
Born: January 7, 1922
Died:

Married September 10, 1946 to
Helene Gosselink
Born: September 29, 1924
Died:

Their Children

Jay Allen Vermeer	March 4, 1948 -
Janna Kay Vermeer	February 10, 1951 -
Janice Lee Vermeer	February 10, 1951 -

* * * * * *

Gysbertha Vermeer
Born: March 27, 1926
Died:

Married July 2, 1948 to
John Brouwer
Born: June 2, 1927
Died:

Their Children

Jerry Brouwer	September 7, 1951 -
Becky Brouwer	March 30, 1954 -

* * * * * *

Ruth Vermeer
Born: April 24, 1927
Died:

Married August 1, 1951 to
Dick Stravers
Born: November 7, 1927
Died:

Their Children

Rickie Stravers	December 21, 1952 -
Mary Beth Stravers	February 21, 1956 -
Joy Lynn Stravers	September 17, 1957 -
Amy Ruth Stravers	January 29, 1963 -

* * * * * *

Ednabel Vermeer
Born: March 6, 1933
Died:

Married April 16, 1954 to
Dale Vos
Born: July 9, 1931
Died:

Their Children

Micheal Dale Vos	January 29, 1955 -
Mark Edwin Vos	April 20, 1957 -
Nick Allen Vos	May 13, 1963 -

Morris H. Vermeer
Born: March 29, 1899
Died:

Married January 17, 1924 to
Katie Vroom
Born: September 20, 1899
Died:

Their Child

Marvin Carl Vermeer — February 5, 1929 -

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Marvin Carl Vermeer
Born: February 5, 1929
Died:

Married June 2, 1951 to
Joyce Jabaai
Born: November 4, 1932
Died:

Their Children

Lois Beverly Vermeer — July 12, 1952 -
Douglas Lee Vermeer — September 5, 1954 -
Lora Ruth Vermeer — April 16, 1956 -

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Mr. and Mrs. Morris Vermeer and
Marvin Vermeer

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Vermeer

Edward Vermeer
Born: December 6, 1902
Died:

Married August 18, 1927 to
Dena Kolenbrander
Born: September 19, 1905
Died:

Their Children

Martha Helene Vermeer	December 31, 1932 -
Barbara Gail Vermeer	June 11, 1942 -

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Martha Helene Vermeer
Born: December 31, 1932
Died:

Married November 12, 1953 to
Henry Velthuizen
Born: December 22, 1924
Died:

Their Children

Sheryl Deanne Velthuizen	September 19, 1954 -
Bryce Edwin Velthuizen	May 6, 1956 -
Joel D. Velthuizen	June 9, 1958 -
Gail Lynn Velthuizen	August 27, 1961 -

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Vermeer
Barbara and Martha

Jacob A. Vermeer
Born: September 8, 1910
Died:

Married February 28, 1935 to
Alyce Zylstra
Born: September 12, 1913
Died:

Their Children

James E. Vermeer	April 3, 1938 -
Judith E. Vermeer	April 14, 1940 -
Eunice Ann Vermeer	March 14, 1943 -
Bertha Marie Vermeer	January 6, 1945 -
Glenda Alyce Vermeer	April 14, 1948 -
Brenda Joy Vermeer	April 14, 1948 -
Esther Louisa Vermeer	March 3, 1951 -

* * * * * *

Back Row: Bertha, James, Eunice, Judith
Front Row: Mr. J.A. Vermeer, Brenda, Esther, Glenda, Mrs. J.A. Vermeer

Jacob Vermeer Family

Jacob Vermeer was the second son of Anthonie and Alida Vermeer. Before they were married, Jacob and his brother Tunis farmed the land where the "Big Brick House" is. They boarded with their brother Brant at that time. After Jacob married, Jacob and his wife moved into the brick house.

Jacob Vermeer
Born: August 22, 1871
Died: August 4, 1905
Married in 1903 to
Minnie Pothoven De Jong
Born: March 7, 1872
Died: December 19, 1954

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Jacob Vermeer

Tunis Vermeer Family

In the year 1904, Tunis A. Vermeer married Nellie Hessing. They began their married life on a farm five and one-half miles east of Pella on Highway 163 in what is commonly known as "the Big Brick House." One year later, they moved to a farm a quarter of a mile south where Tunis passed away in 1918. His daughter Alydia is living in a new house built in 1947 at 411 East First Street. Dick Vermeer and his wife are living at 1011 Hazel Street in Pella.

Tunis Vermeer
Born: December 25, 1873
Died: March 7, 1918
Married February 17, 1904 to
Nellie Hessing
Born: January 31, 1876
Died: August 31, 1940

Their Children

Alydia Vermeer	May 17, 1905 -
Dick T. Vermeer	February 7, 1907 -

* * * * * *

Dick T. Vermeer
Born: February 7, 1907
Died:
Married January 13, 1956 to
Ethel De Winter
Born:
Died:

* * * * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Tunis Vermeer

Dick and Alydia Vermeer

William Vermeer Family

William A. Vermeer was born on a farm four miles northeast of Pella in Mahaska County, Iowa. He was the fourth of eight sons born to Anthonie and Alida Vermeer. In 1909 he married Martena Vos and together they made their home on a farm one mile east of Pella. In 1936, when their son married and took over the operation of the farm, they retired from active farming and moved to 506 West First Street in Pella. After the death of his wife in 1953, William returned to the farm to spend the remainder of his life with his son Gysbert and family.

William A. Vermeer
Born: December 9, 1876
Died: April 30, 1961
Married March 11, 1909 to
Martena Gysbertha Vos
Born: December 19, 1884
Died: November 20, 1953

Their Children

Gysbert Jacob Vermeer	October 7, 1910 -
Antonie Albert Vermeer	July 26, 1912 - January 21, 1920

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Mr. and Mrs. William Vermeer

Gysbert and Antonie Vermeer

Gysbert Jacob Vermeer
Born: October 7, 1910
Died:

Married March 12, 1936 to
Leona Van Donselaar
Born: August 26, 1910
Died:

Their Children

Junella Martena Vermeer	May 28, 1938 -
William Junior Vermeer	January 24, 1942 -
Phyllis Ann Vermeer	September 22, 1943 -
Gloria Lou Vermeer	February 23, 1948 -

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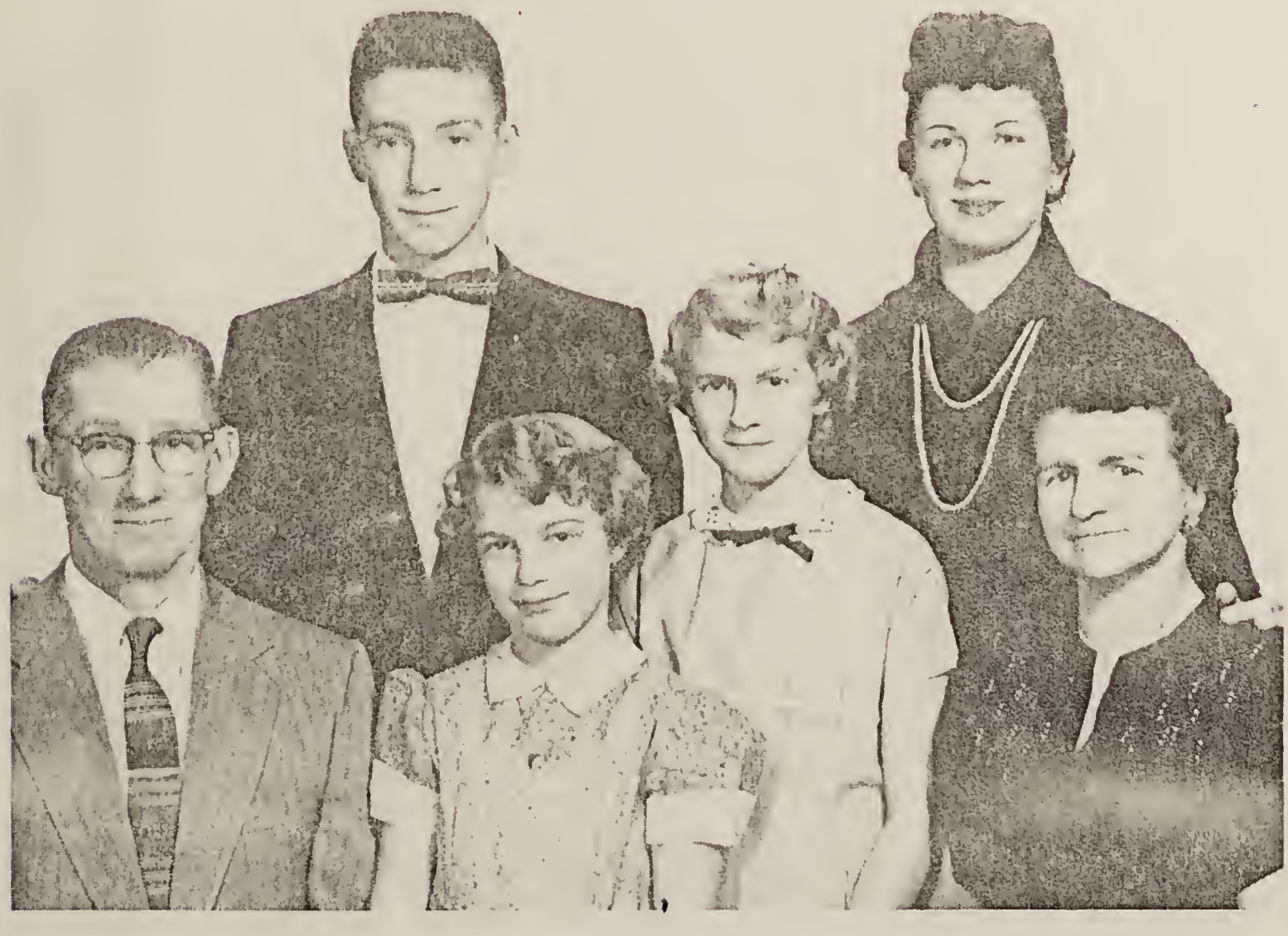
Junella Martena Vermeer
Born: May 28, 1938
Died:

Married February 19, 1960 to
John Arthur Rosier
Born: July 23, 1937
Died:

* * * * * *



Back Row: William, Junella
Front Row: Gysbert Vermeer, Gloria, Phyllis, Mrs. Gysbert Vermeer

Otto Vermeer Family

It was in the year 1911 that Otto Vermeer was married to Dena Stadt, a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The ceremony, performed by Reverend De Leeuw at the First Christian Reformed Church parsonage, climaxed a courtship that began while Dena was visiting friends in Pella. Their married life began in "the Big Brick House" on Highway 163 east of Pella. Six years later, they moved to a farm two miles west of Leighton. After living there for one year and because of Otto's ill health, they decided to move to 1318 North Main Street in Pella. After six years of city life, it was back to the farm for Dena, Otto, and their two children. In the spring of 1943, they moved back to their home in Pella and son Anthony took over the farming operation. In 1955 they moved into a new home at 1324 North Main Street where they remained until Otto's death in 1957.

Otto Vermeer
Born: August 19, 1879
Died: October 29, 1957

Married May 29, 1911 to

Dena Stadt
Born: January 27, 1888
Died:

Their Children

Anthony Bernard (O.) Vermeer	October 1, 1914 -
Henrietta Vermeer	April 2, 1923 -

* * * * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Vermeer

Back Row: Owen, Carol, Eugene
Front Row: Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Vermeer

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Anthony Vermeer
Born: October 1, 1914
Died:

Married May 17, 1939 to
Jeanette Vander Wal
Born: July 31, 1918
Died:

Their Children

Owen Dean Vermeer	December 1, 1942 -
Carol Ann Vermeer	March 21, 1947 -
Eugene Alan Vermeer	February 15, 1951 -

Henrietta Vermeer
Born: April 2, 1923
Died:

Married September 6, 1946 to
Jesse Noah Williams
Born: April 1, 1923
Died:

Their Child
Marylie Catherine Williams August 29, 1953 -

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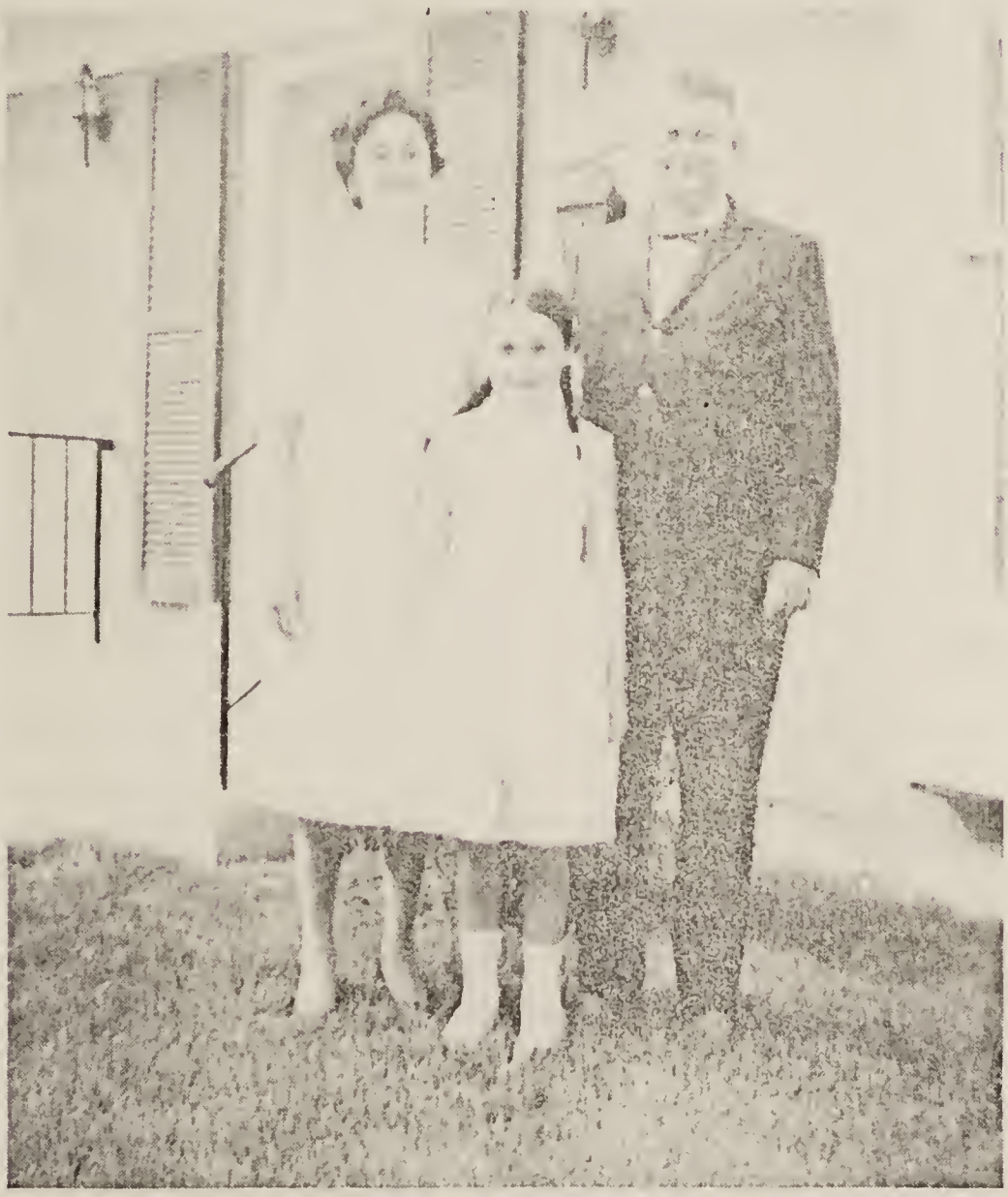

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Williams
and Marylie

John Vermeer Family

John Vermeer, sixth son of Anthonie and Alida Vermeer, was born in 1882. On February 18, 1903, he was united in marriage to Minnie Van Gorp. They made their home on the farm where John had been born, which was two and one-half miles east of Pella. This land is now operated by his sons Jacob and Tunis. In 1941, John and his wife moved to 301 Washington Street in Pella. When Art Van Donselaar died, they moved to his farm and lived there for over a year from 1944 to 1946. In 1946, they moved back to the house on the corner of Hazel and Washington Streets. In 1951, John bought at auction the house where Bertha Van Donselaar had lived. John and Minnie moved to 805 West First Street in 1951.

John's daughters, Alice and Marie, both married farmers.

Anthony Vermeer was a trucker until his death in 1951. Jacob J. Vermeer began farming after he was married, but now he devotes most of his time to buying and selling cattle. Tunis J. Vermeer farms and does some trucking.

John Vermeer
Born: April 13, 1882
Died: December 20, 1952

Married February 18, 1903 to
Minnie Van Gorp
Born: October 18, 1882
Died:

Their Children

Alice Vermeer	May 21, 1906 -
Marie Vermeer	May 14, 1909 -
Anthony Vermeer	October 4, 1911 - November 15, 1951
Jacob J. Vermeer	September 9, 1913 -
Tunis J. Vermeer	March 1, 1919 -

* * * * * *

Back Row: Marie, Tunis, Alice
Front Row: Jacob, John Vermeer, Mrs. John Vermeer, Anthony

Alice Vermeer
Born: May 21, 1906
Died:

Married February 18, 1926 to
Dick Langstraat
Born: October 23, 1904
Died:

Their Children

Mabel Wilma Langstraat	November 8, 1927 -
Lawrence James Langstraat	April 8, 1931 -
Ralph John Langstraat	April 19, 1933 - November 16, 1942
Dorothy Ann Langstraat	July 14, 1934 -
Norma Jean Langstraat	January 23, 1938 -
Richard Junior Langstraat	February 13, 1939 -
Marilyn Alice Langstraat	January 4, 1941 -
Raymond John Langstraat	May 11, 1944 -

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Back Row: Raymond, Marilyn, Dorothy, Richard, Norma
Front Row: Mabel, Mrs. Dick Langstraat, Dick Langstraat, Lawrence

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Mabel Wilma Langstraat
Born: November 8, 1927 -
Died:

Married June 11, 1947 to
Sybren Ryken
Born: April 9, 1927
Died:

Their Children

Jerry Allen Ryken	April 29, 1948 -
Roger Lee Ryken	September 11, 1949 -
Eugene Keith Ryken	November 15, 1952 -
Sharon Ann Ryken	March 15, 1956 -
Cynthia Ruth Ryken	November 5, 1960 -

Lawrence James Langstraat
Born: April 8, 1931
Died:

Married June 5, 1958 to
Eleanor McCarty
Born: February 25, 1935
Died:

Their Children

Sherry Linn Langstraat	April 30, 1959 -
Mark Wayne Langstraat	September 10, 1961 -

* * * * * *

Dorothy Ann Langstraat
Born: July 14, 1934
Died:

Married January 19, 1954 to
Wilbur Nunnikhoven
Born: November 7, 1931
Died:

Their Children

Gary Lee Nunnikhoven	September 9, 1954 -
Douglas Jay Nunnikhoven	January 31, 1956 -
Sandra Kay Nunnikhoven	July 27, 1957 -
Leon Ray Nunnikhoven	November 5, 1958 -
Lyle Eugene Nunnikhoven	December 21, 1961 -

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Norma Jean Langstraat
Born: January 23, 1938
Died:

Married June 21, 1957 to
Henry Lee Nunnikhoven
Born: February 8, 1937
Died:

Their Children

Marla Jean Nunnikhoven	July 14, 1958 -
Vernon Lee Nunnikhoven	September 25, 1960 -

* * * * * *

Richard Junior Langstraat
Born: February 13, 1939
Died:

Married February 14, 1959 to
Alice Whittem
Born: May 27, 1938
Died:

Their Child

Angela Marie Langstraat	October 28, 1961 -

Marilyn Alice Langstraat
Born: January 4, 1941
Died:

Married February 21, 1960 to
Leonard Ferry

Their Child

Kenneth Bruce Ferry June 10, 1960 -

Married February 2, 1961 to
Sidney Kurshinski

Their Child

Charles Ray Kurshinski November 26, 1961 -

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Marie Vermeer
Born: May 14, 1909
Died:

Married April 17, 1928 to
William Louwsma
Born: August 31, 1906
Died:

Their Children

Mildred Louwsma	November 2, 1928 -
Ethel Louwsma	May 30, 1931 -
Maxine Louwsma	December 10, 1936 -
Leona Louwsma	April 4, 1938 -
Betty Louwsma	February 7, 1943 -

* * * * * *

Back Row: Marie Louwsma, Maxine, Mildred
Front Row: Leona, Ethel, Betty

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Mildred Louwsma
Born: November 2, 1928
Died:

Married July 30, 1947 to
Cornie Tromp
Born: December 19, 1925
Died:

Their Child

Kenneth Tromp July 22, 1949 -

Ethel Louwsma
Born: May 30, 1931
Died:

Married August 4, 1949 to
John Lanser

Their Child

Jerry Lanser September 2, 1950 -

Married April 4, 1954 to
Rev. Paul Strang
Born: August 19, 1921
Died:

Their Children

Paul Kevin Strang January 8, 1956 -
Kimberly Strang January 16, 1957 -
Penny Rae Strang March 16, 1960 -

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Maxine Louwsma
Born: December 10, 1936
Died:

Married August 10, 1956 to
Frank Jones
Born: November 17, 1931
Died:

Their Children

Susan Jones August 28, 1957 -
Stephen Jones September 22, 1958 -

* * * * * *

Leona Louwsma
Born: April 4, 1938
Died:

Married February 10, 1956 to
Larry De Bruin
Born: August 18, 1935
Died:

Their Children

Scott De Bruin August 29, 1956 -
Vicki De Bruin September 5, 1957 -
Crystal Dawn De Bruin July 5, 1960 -

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Betty Louwsma
Born: February 7, 1943
Died:

Married October 27, 1961 to
Gerald Vermeer
Born: January 5, 1937
Died:

Anthony Vermeer
Born: October 4, 1911
Died: November 15, 1951

Married February 18, 1936 to
Waltrena Vander Beek
Born: July 8, 1916
Died:

Their Children

Kenneth John Vermeer	July 3, 1940 - September 1, 1941
Delores Vermeer	July 24, 1942 -
Donald Vermeer	October 5, 1945 -
Linda Vermeer	May 1, 1949 -

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Back Row: Donald Vermeer,
Front Row: Linda, Mrs. Anthony Vermeer, Curtis Cade, Delores

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Delores Vermeer
Born: July 24, 1942
Died:

Married January 6, 1960 to
Wayne Cade
Born: December 2, 1936
Died: February 24, 1962

Their Child

Curtis Lee Cade July 2, 1960 -

Married June 7, 1963 to
Dale Kane
Born: January 26, 1941
Died:

Jacob J. Vermeer
Born: September 9, 1913
Died:

Married February 18, 1937 to
Junella Meppelink
Born: June 28, 1913
Died:

Their Children

Mary Ellen Vermeer	February 2, 1940 -
Harley Vermeer	May 10, 1943 -

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Mary Ellen Vermeer
Born: February 2, 1940
Died:

Married September 27, 1957 to
Andrew J. Uitermarkt
Born: July 22, 1935
Died:

Their Children

Floyd Duane Uitermarkt	May 13, 1958 -
Lloyd David Uitermarkt	March 7, 1961 -

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Back Row:
Mary Ellen, Harley
Front Row:
Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Vermeer

Tunis J. Vermeer
Born: March 1, 1919
Died:

Married February 20, 1941 to
Margaret De Ruiter
Born: October 19, 1921
Died:

Their Children

Barbara Lou Vermeer	January 15, 1944 -
Patricia Kay Vermeer	November 13, 1946 -
Laura Mae Vermeer	June 11, 1954 -

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Back Row: Patricia, Laura, Barbara
Front Row: Mr. and Mrs. Tunis J. Vermeer

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Barbara Lou Vermeer
Born: January 15, 1944
Died:

Married June 25, 1963 to
Melvin Bokhoven
Born: August 8, 1943
Died:

Gerrit Vermeer Family

Gerrit Vermeer was united in marriage to Anna Blom and took over the operation of a portion of his father's farm. Gerrit moved from the farm to 1201 Broadway in 1941 when his son Tudor took over the operation of the farm. Gerrit's daughter Ella and family live on a farm approximately one-half mile west of the "home place."

Gerrit remembers hearing his father tell the story of a snake found near a cave along the Skunk River which was twenty feet long and as thick as a stove pipe.

Gerrit A. Vermeer
Born: August 29, 1884
Died:

Married March 6, 1913 to
Anna Blom
Born: August 29, 1890
Died: December 2, 1949

Their Children

Tunis G. (Tudor) Vermeer	January 5, 1915 -
Ella Vermeer	March 29, 1917 -

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Mr. and Mrs. Gerrit Vermeer

Tunis G. Vermeer
Born: January 5, 1915
Died:

Married February 12, 1941 to
Dorothy De Zwarte
Born: March 16, 1921
Died:

Their Children

Jerry Lee Vermeer	July 7, 1942 -
Donald Wayne Vermeer	April 23, 1945 -
Rosemary Ann Vermeer	March 18, 1950 -

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Mr. and Mrs. Tunis G. Vermeer

Mr. and Mrs. Nickolas Menninga

Ella Vermeer
Born: March 29, 1917
Died:

Married February 12, 1941 to
Nickolas Menninga
Born: January 2, 1918
Died:

Their Children

Larry Duane Menninga	October 17, 1942 -
Bryce Gene Menninga	January 17, 1945 -
Douglas Loren Menninga	April 29, 1948 -
Sheryl Lynn Menninga	January 6, 1952 -

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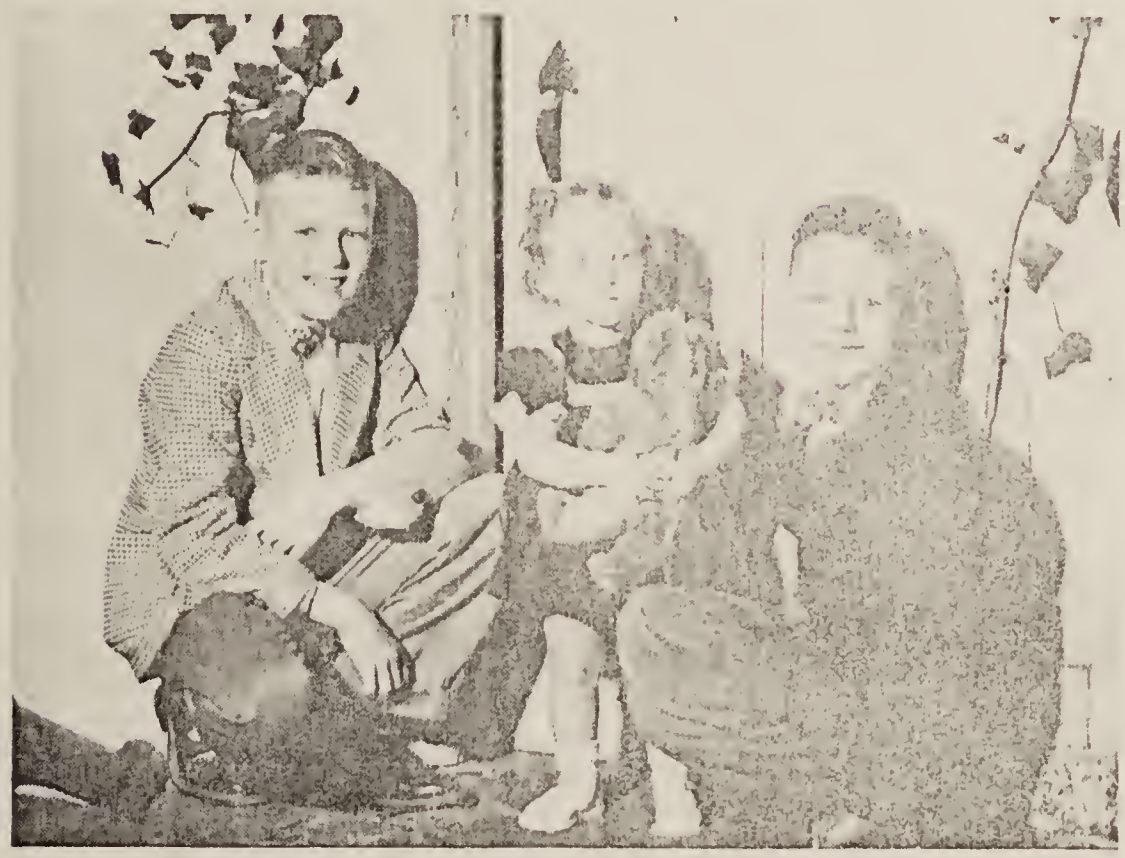


Picture at left:
Jerry, Rosemary, and
Donald Vermeer

Picture at right:
Douglas, Bryce, Larry,
and Sheryl Menninga

Cornelius Vermeer Family

Cornelius Vermeer was the eighth and youngest son of Anthonie and Alida Vermeer. Before he was married, he was a butcher and worked six years for Ulrich and was two years in partnership with John Van Gorp. Neal says that it took twenty minutes from the time a cow was killed until it was dressed in halves (quarters are shown in the picture). The picture shows the meat market fifty years ago which was located where Steenhoek Auto Supply is now.

After his marriage in 1913 to Winnie Van Gorp, Neal and Winnie moved to the farm at the north end of Hazel Street. He farmed here until his retirement in 1949 when he moved to Pella. For a few years--he farmed at the end of Hazel Street before and after this--he lived where Mrs. Anthony Vermeer now lives, and then he hauled gas and oil with a Model T truck and a tank holding a total of 300 gallons of fuel. He and his wife now reside at 1343 Main Street. His son Clarence, who lives at 1341 Main Street, is employed by the Rolscreen Company.

Interior of the Meat Market fifty years ago.
left to right: T. Pletter, J. Van Gorp

Neal with his gas and oil truck

Mr. and Mrs.
Cornelius Vermeer

Cornelius Vermeer
Born: April 12, 1888
Died:

Married May 22, 1913 to
Winnie Van Gorp
Born: November 4, 1891
Died:

Their Child
Clarence Vermeer March 13, 1924 -

* * * * * *

Clarence Vermeer
Born: March 13, 1924
Died:

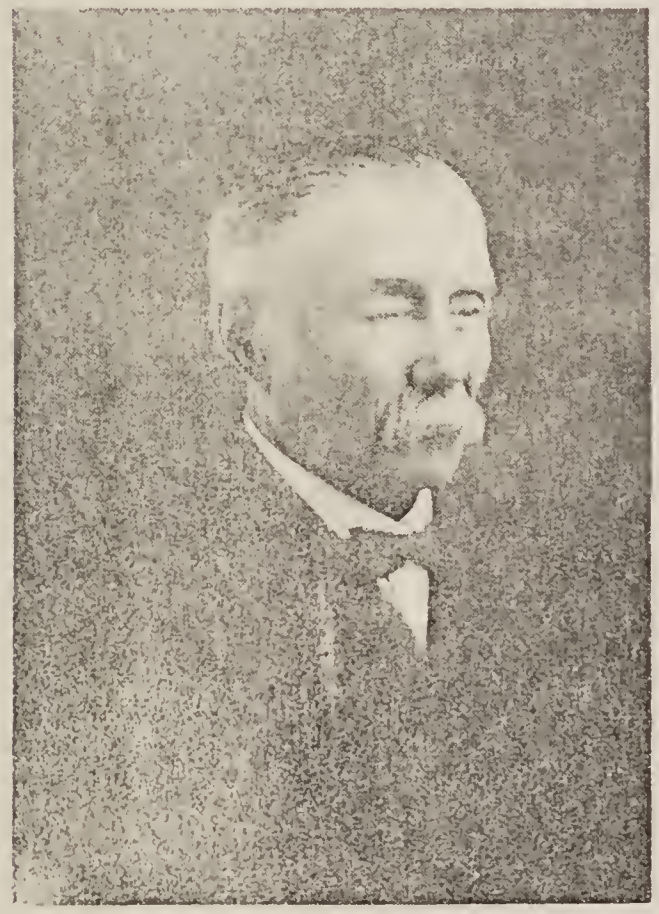
Married August 27, 1948 to
Leona Uitermarkt
Born: October 6, 1923
Died:

Mr. and Mrs.
Clarence Vermeer

GERRIT VERMEER
FAMILY

GERRIT VERMEER FAMILY

It was in the spring of 1874 that Gerrit Vermeer married Hendrika De Bruin. Their first home was located two miles east, one mile north, and one-half mile east of Pella on the farm which is now owned and operated by Leslie Bogaards. It was here that the twins Tonnetta and Minnie were born. When the twins were three months old, the family moved to a farm located approximately four and one-half miles straight east of Pella. It was in this home that Bertha joined the family circle in 1877. In 1882, Gerrit purchased from a Mr. Veenschoten the farm which is now owned by his grandson, John H. Vermeer. It was here that Jacob, Jennie, and Mattie joined the family. Mrs. Vermeer passed away in 1895. In 1917, Gerrit moved to 601 Washington Street in Pella where in 1923 he died at the age of 79 years.



Gerrit Vermeer

Mrs. Gerrit Vermeer

Gerrit Vermeer
Born: October 14, 1843
Died: May 30, 1923

Married April 23, 1874 to
Hendrika De Bruin
Born: June 30, 1850
Died: March 30, 1895

Their Children

Tonnetta Vermeer	December 8, 1874 - January 23, 1963
Minnie Vermeer	December 8, 1874 - October 1, 1948
Bertha Vermeer	November 26, 1877 - January 5, 1951
Jacob Vermeer	December 8, 1882 - January 15, 1952
Jennie Vermeer	October 30, 1884 - September 9, 1955
Mattie Vermeer	October 7, 1889 -

Grandchildren of Gerrit Vermeer
Back Row: John, Herman Paul, Gerald, Gary, Junella, Elmer, Albert, Gerrit
Front Row: Harry, Evelyn, Marsha

Scene in Pella around 1916: left to right: Mrs. Haven, Gerrit Vermeer, Nick Meppelink, Mattie, Jacob, and Jennie. children: Herman Paul and Gerald Meppelink.

Gerrit Vermeer in front of the house which he built on the farm where John H. Vermeer now lives.

Tonnetta Vermeer Family

On December 4, 1901, Reverend J. Keizer united in marriage Tonnetta Vermeer and Jim Van Houweling. Their first home was located approximately five miles west of Pella, a short distance from Highway 163. In the spring of 1906, they moved to a farm one and one-half miles east of Pella. Net and Jim moved to 611 East Second Street in Pella in 1928. It was at this time that their daughter Junella married Anthony K. Van Zee, and they took over the operation of the farm. After her husband's death, Net lived in an apartment at 804 Liberty for a short time. In 1947, she returned to the farm to make her home with her daughter and family.

Tonnetta (Net) Vermeer
Born: December 8, 1874
Died: January 23, 1963
Married December 4, 1901 to
Adrian (Jim) Van Houweling
Born: February 19, 1871
Died: December 14, 1946
Their Child
Junella Henrietta Van Houweling October 29, 1904 -

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Mr. and Mrs. Jim Van Houweling

Junella Henrietta Van Houweling
Born: October 29, 1904
Died:

Married February 14, 1928 to
Anthony K. Van Zee
Born: March 23, 1900
Died:

Their Children

Gene Karl Van Zee	April 1, 1929 -
Helen Joyce Van Zee	January 16, 1931 -
Ronald Duane Van Zee	March 14, 1944 -

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Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Van Zee, and Ronald

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Gene Karl Van Zee
Born: April 1, 1929
Died:

Married June 25, 1954 to
Sylvia Moes
Born: June 12, 1933
Died:

Their Children

René Jean Van Zee	August 5, 1955 -
Cassandra Van Zee	December 20, 1956 -
Wendy Van Zee	March 11, 1960 -

Helen Joyce Van Zee
Born: January 16, 1931
Died:

Married June 24, 1955 to
Cornelius Vande Ree
Born: January 5, 1931
Died:

Their Children

Cheryl Lynn Vande Ree	June 17, 1956 -
Caryn Ann Vande Ree	December 22, 1957 -
Brian Jon Vande Ree	March 18, 1961 -

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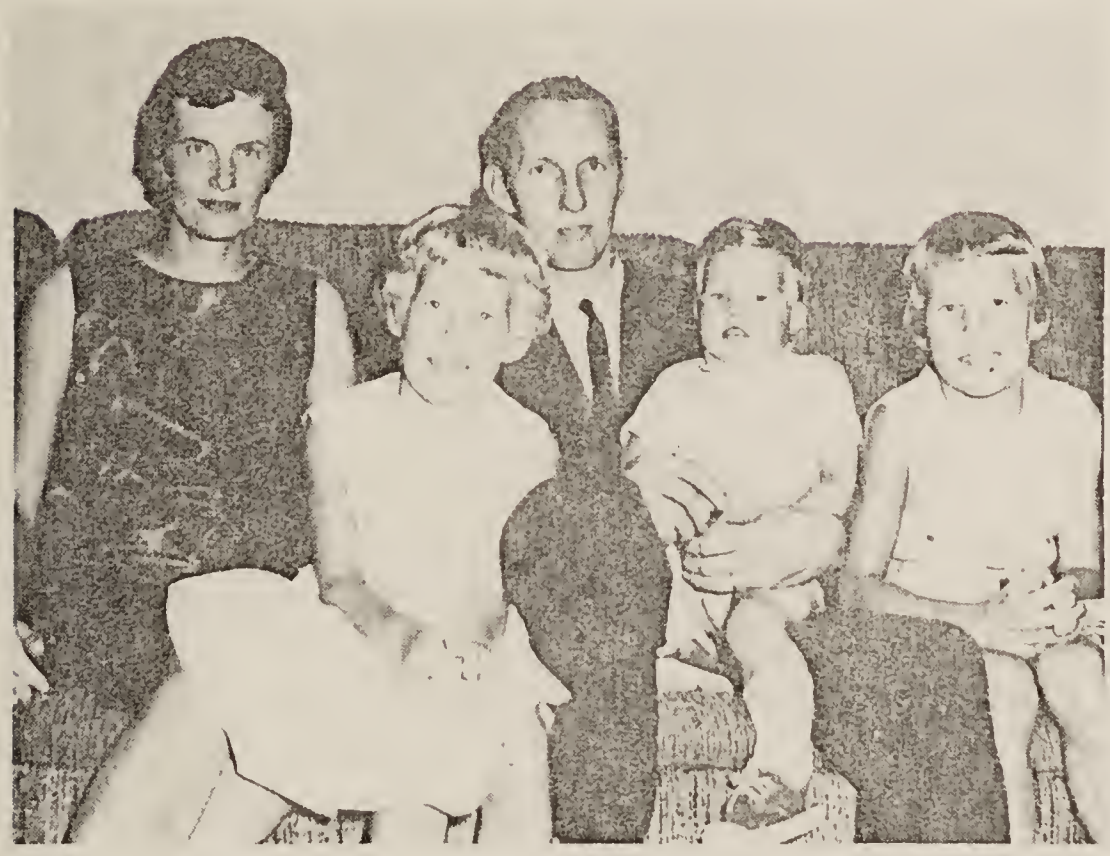

Helen, Caryn, Cornelius, Brian, and Cheryl Vande Ree

René, Wendy, Gene, Sylvia, and Cassandra Van Zee

Minnie Vermeer Family

Minnie Vermeer was married to Peter Tysseling in 1900 by Reverend Veltman. They moved to a farm approximately one and one-half miles east of Pella where their son Gerrit is now living. In 1927, Minnie and her husband moved to a new home at 807 Independence Street in Pella. When Minnie's oldest son Albert married in 1925, he moved to a farm two miles east, one mile north, and one-quarter mile east of Pella where his son Carl now resides. In 1961, Albert and his wife moved to 807 Independence Street in Pella to live with his father.

Minnie Vermeer
Born: December 8, 1874
Died: October 1, 1948
Married February 1, 1900 to
Peter Tysseling
Born: January 28, 1877
Died:

Their Children

Albert G. Tysseling	November 21, 1900 -
Gerrit Harry Tysseling	November 6, 1902 -

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Mr. and Mrs. Peter Tysseling

Albert G. Tysseling
Born: November 21, 1900
Died:

Married February 25, 1925 to
Edna Van Zante
Born: July 5, 1901
Died:

Their Children

Ruth Lucille Tysseling	August 3, 1927 -
Orville Lee Tysseling	June 15, 1933 -
Carl Wayne Tysseling	September 5, 1937 -

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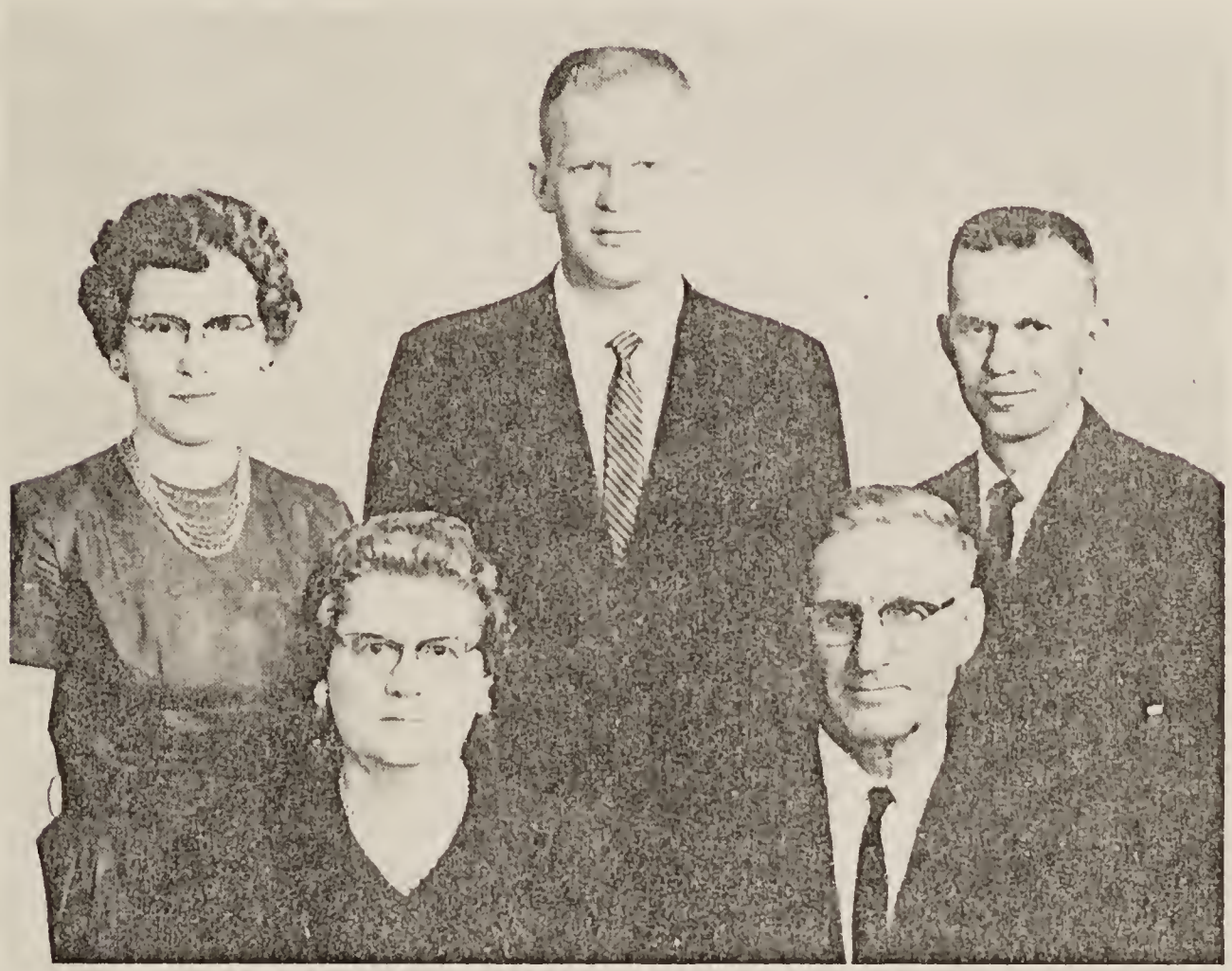

Back Row: Ruth, Orville, Carl
Front Row: Mr. and Mrs. Albert Tysseling

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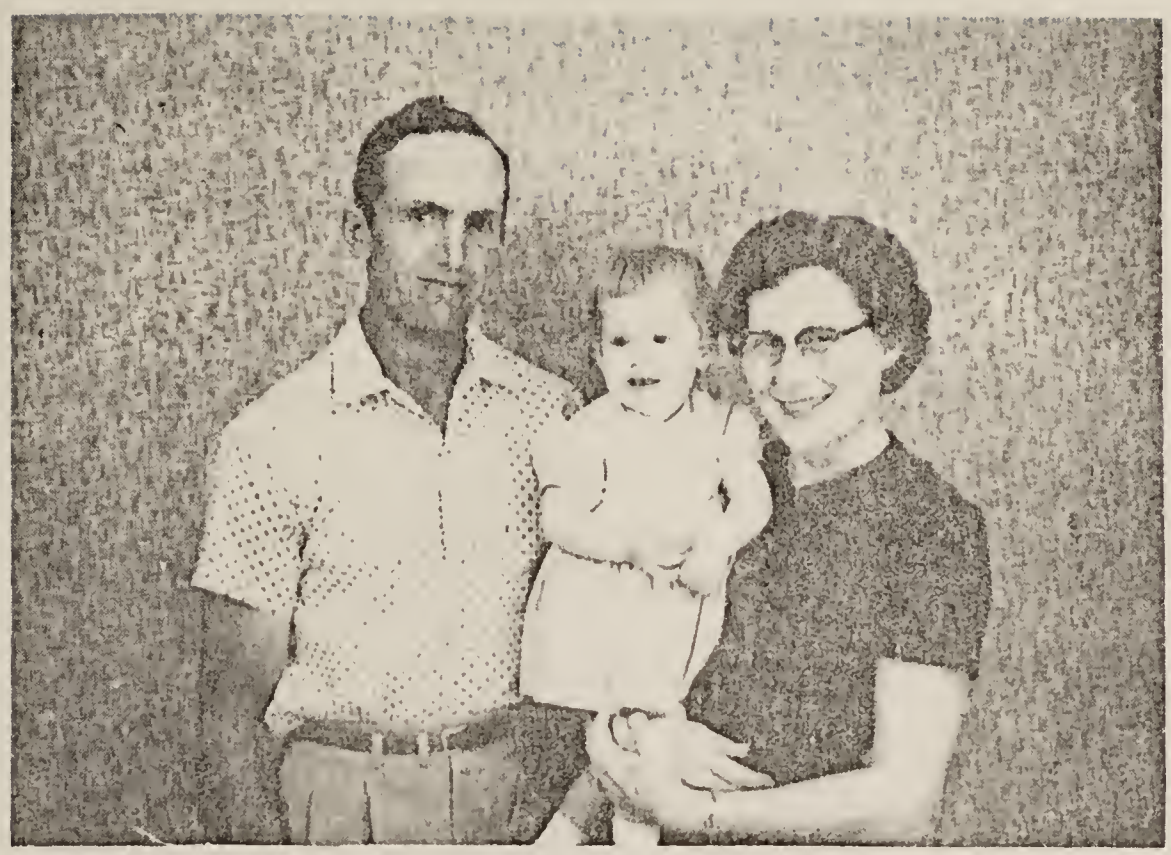
Ruth Lucille Tysseling
Born: August 3, 1927
Died:

Married January 18, 1961 to
John C. Vander Hart
Born: September 30, 1920
Died:

Their Child

Edith Ann Vander Hart	January 26, 1962 -



Ruth, Edith, and John Vander Hart

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Orville Lee Tysseling
Born: June 15, 1933
Died:

Married August 18, 1955 to
Judith Rice
Born: November 29, 1933
Died:

Their Children

Susan Beth Tysseling	February 10, 1957 -
Karen Lynn Tysseling	January 20, 1959 -
Gretchen Lee Tysseling	July 12, 1961 -

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Carl Wayne Tysseling
Born: September 5, 1937
Died:

Married September 5, 1961 to
Mary Van Heukelom
Born: March 16, 1941
Died:

Their Child

Laura Joy Tysseling	September 19, 1962 -

Karen, Orville, Susan, Judith, and Gretchen Tysseling

Carl, Laura, and Mary Tysseling

Gerrit Harry Tysseling
Born: November 6, 1902
Died:

Married June 27, 1927 to
Georgiana Henrietta Roorda
Born: November 23, 1903
Died:

Their Children

Pauline Audrey Tysseling	March 3, 1930 -
Enid Mayne Tysseling	April 10, 1933 -

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Mr. and Mrs. Gerrit Tysseling

Pauline Tysseling

Enid Tysseling

Bertha Vermeer Family

Bertha Vermeer was married to Art Van Donselaar in 1903 by Reverend J. Timmerman. Their first home was on a farm about two miles east of Pella on Highway 163. In 1917 they moved to a farm two miles east and one-quarter mile south of Pella and soon afterward built a new house on this farm. Art passed away in 1944 and Bertha moved to Pella March 1, 1945. She lived at 805 West First Street in Pella until her death in 1951.

Bertha Vermeer
Born: November 26, 1877
Died: January 5, 1951

Married March 11, 1903 to
Art B. Van Donselaar
Born: September 2, 1877
Died: November 11, 1944

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Mr. and Mrs. Art Van Donselaar

Jacob Vermeer Family

Jacob G. Vermeer, only son of Gerrit and Hendrika Vermeer, was born December 8, 1882 on a farm approximately two miles east of Pella. On August 23, 1917, he was united in marriage to Anna Haven of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Reverend J. J. Burggraff officiated at the home ceremony in Grand Rapids. They built a new home on the farm and moved into it in the fall of 1925. In 1950 they moved to 507 Washington Street in Pella where Jacob died in 1952. Mrs. Vermeer moved into a new house at 806 West First Street in 1954. It was in the fall of 1960 that Mrs. Vermeer accompanied her son Harry and his wife Bernice on a trip to Holland where they visited the Vermeer home at Lunteren.

Elmer Vermeer is serving his fifth term as a Republican State Representative and is associated with his brother John in the operation of the Pella Nursery. This nursery began in 1960 and is located east of Pella on the farm where John is living.

In 1948, Gary and Ralph Vermeer opened a new factory in Pella. This factory, known as Vermeer Manufacturing Company, began in one small building with Gary and one employee making wagon hoists. Today this same factory employs over one hundred persons, has approximately one hundred thousand square feet of floor space, and manufactures several products, most popular being hammermill drives, ditchers, irrigation sprinklers, and stump cutters. Customers are located throughout the United States and many foreign countries. In 1956, the Vermeer-Holland Company was formed in the Netherlands.

In 1961, Gary, Ralph, and Harry Vermeer bought controlling interest in the Marion County State Bank.

Harry joined Vermeer Manufacturing Company in 1950 as purchasing agent and treasurer. Harry has also served two terms as a city council member.

Back Row: Jacob Vermeer, Mrs. Jacob Vermeer, John
Front Row: Elmer, Harry, and Gary

Jacob G. Vermeer
Born: December 8, 1882
Died: January 15, 1952
Married August 23, 1917 to
Anna E. Haven
Born: June 7, 1895
Died:

Their Children

Gary John Vermeer	September 29, 1918 -
Elmer Harry Vermeer	June 7, 1920 -
John Haven Vermeer	May 13, 1925 -
Harry Gene Vermeer	March 22, 1929 -

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Gary John Vermeer
Born: September 29, 1918
Died:
Married February 14, 1941 to
Matilda Van Gorp
Born: February 14, 1920
Died:

Their Children

Stanley James Vermeer	November 4, 1942 -
Robert Lee Vermeer	July 28, 1944 -
Mary Ann Vermeer	November 22, 1949 -

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Back Row: Robert, Stanley, Mary Ann
Front Row: Mr. and Mrs. Gary Vermeer

Back: Thomas, James, William
Forward: Richard, Mrs. Elmer Vermeer, Ann, Elmer Vermeer

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Elmer Harry Vermeer
Born: June 7, 1920
Died:

Married September 20, 1946 to
Jeanette Lankelma
Born: April 22, 1924
Died:

Their Children

Thomas Elmer Vermeer	October 26, 1948 -
Richard Lankelma Vermeer	June 4, 1950 -
William Harry Vermeer	November 1, 1951 -
James Earl Vermeer	April 2, 1954 -
Ann Kathyrn Vermeer	August 21, 1958 -

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Rita, Mrs. John Vermeer, Stephen, John Vermeer, Jay

John Haven Vermeer
Born: May 13, 1925
Died:

Married February 8, 1950 to
Effie De Jong
Born: July 23, 1927
Died:

Their Children

Rita Ann Vermeer	January 8, 1952 -
Jay G. Vermeer	July 20, 1954 -
Stephen John Vermeer	August 6, 1960 -

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Harry Gene Vermeer
Born: March 22, 1929
Died:

Married November 23, 1951 to
Bernice Tromp
Born: September 18, 1931
Died:

Their Children

Nancy Diane Vermeer	September 28, 1953 -
Michael Harry Vermeer	September 2, 1955 -
LuAnn Vermeer	July 4, 1957 -
Melinda Sue Vermeer	December 19, 1958 -

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left to right: Michael, Harry Vermeer, Nancy,
Mrs. Harry Vermeer, LuAnn, Melinda

Jennie Vermeer Family

Jennie Vermeer and Nick Meppelink were married in 1910 by Reverend T. Vander Ark. They moved to the Meppelink "home place" west of Leighton, living there about one year. Then they moved to Leighton where Nick operated a general store. In 1913, they moved to a farm about four miles east and one mile south of Pella and in 1917, they moved to 812 East Second Street in Pella.

It was in 1918 that Nick became a rural mail carrier. That same year Nick and Jennie traded homes with their Uncle Anthonie Vermeer and moved to the acreage at 200 Sharon Road where their son Herman Paul now lives. Nick greatly desired the property on Sharon Road so that it would be possible for him to keep a team of horses for use on his mail route when it was impossible for him to get around with the car.

This Ford, showing the running gear, was the first car used by Nick Meppelink on his mail route. This running gear was picked up in Terrytown, New York. Original plan was to tow it to Pella, but due to excess wearing, it was necessary to purchase a seat in a junk yard and then drive the car to Pella. Rody Huren built a box for the car. During most of the time that Nick was a rural mail carrier, he used cars with a right hand drive. In 1936, Nick and Jennie built a new home at 513 Franklin Street in Pella where they resided until their deaths.

Their son Gerald lived on the farm four miles east and one mile south of Pella until 1946 when he moved to Bertha Van Donselaar's farm. After Bertha's death, the farm was sold, and in 1952, Gerald and Leona moved to a farm west of Pella. Herman Paul was a trucker until 1946. In that year he began a fuel delivery service to farmers which he still does.

Jennie Vermeer
Born: October 30, 1884
Died: September 9, 1955

Married January 13, 1910 to
Nickolas Meppelink
Born: February 12, 1881
Died: June 8, 1956

Their Children

Herman Paul Meppelink	December 15, 1910 -
Gerald Antonie Meppelink	June 26, 1912 -

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Back Row: Gerald, Herman Paul
Front Row: Mr. and Mrs. Nickolas Meppelink

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Herman Paul Meppelink
Born: December 15, 1910
Died:

Married March 26, 1936 to
Emma De Bruin
Born: March 15, 1915
Died:

Their Children

Gene Edwin Meppelink	August 25, 1937 -
Marvin Earl Meppelink	October 29, 1939 -
Alvin Robert Meppelink	November 6, 1944 -

Gerald Antonie Meppelink
Born: June 26, 1912
Died:

Married April 22, 1936 to
Leona May Newendorp
Born: November 7, 1917
Died:

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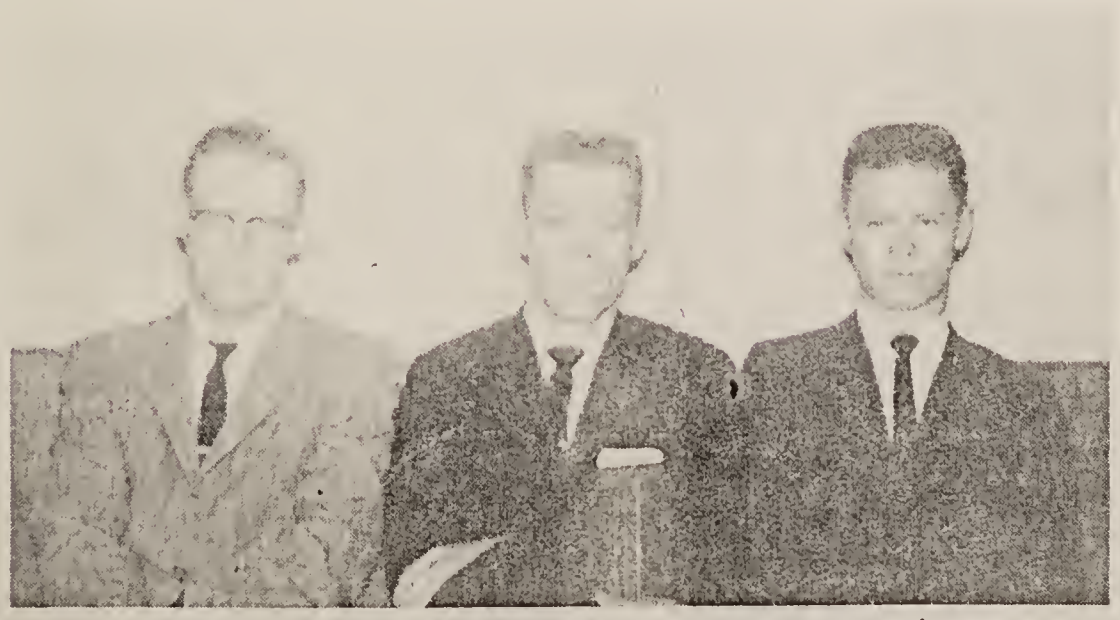
Mr. and Mrs. Herman Paul Meppelink

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Meppelink



Gene, Marvin, and Robert Meppelink

Mattie Vermeer Family

Mattie, the youngest of Gerrit Vermeer's children, was married to Henry Jansen in 1923 by Reverend John De Haan. They moved to a farm two miles east and one mile north of Pella. After her husband's death in 1934, she, with her two daughters, moved to 601 Washington Street in Pella where she still resides. Both of her daughters are married and live on farms. Evelyn lives on a farm north of Otley and Marsha lives on a farm west of Oskaloosa on Highway 163.

Mattie Vermeer
Born: October 7, 1889
Died:

Married July 25, 1923 to
Henry Jansen
Born: July 31, 1884
Died: February 25, 1934

Their Children

Evelyn Hattie Jansen	January 21, 1931 -
Marsha Hila Jansen	September 19, 1933 -

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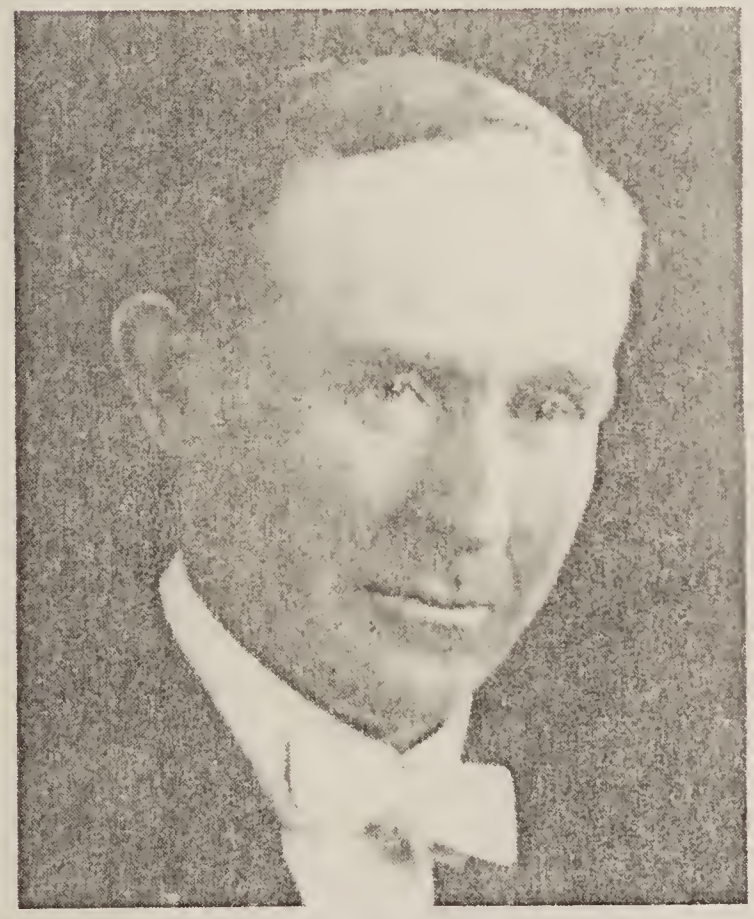

Mr. Henry Jansen

Mrs. Henry Jansen, Evelyn, and Marsha

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Evelyn Hattie Jansen
Born: January 21, 1931
Died:

Married November 25, 1954 to
Lawrence G. Dykstra
Born: September 25, 1930
Died:

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Dykstra

Thomas, James Overbergen, Jon, Mrs. James Overbergen, William

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Marsha Hila Jansen
Born: September 19, 1933
Died:

Married June 22, 1955 to
James Overbergen
Born: December 15, 1928
Died:

Their Children

William Mark Overbergen	November 11, 1955 -
Thomas James Overbergen	March 21, 1957 -
Jon Kent Overbergen	April 15, 1960 -

HENDRICK VERMEER
FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Hendrick Vermeer

Hendrick Vermeer
Born: December 5, 1845
Died: July 30, 1927
Married May 9, 1873 to
Johanna Paulina Coeling
Born: August 6, 1855
Died: November 21, 1937

Their Children

Tonia Vermeer	March 27, 1874 - November, 1876
Willem Vermeer	September 5, 1875 - February 20, 1940
Tonia Vermeer	November 6, 1877 - October 18, 1953
Brandius Vermeer	November 27, 1879 - March 23, 1948
Roelena Vermeer	April 28, 1882 -
Otto Hendrick Vermeer	May 25, 1885- October 12, 1960
John Paul Vermeer	February 3, 1892 -

HENDRICK VERMEER FAMILY

It was in 1873, when he was twenty-eight years old, that Hendrick Vermeer married Johanna Paulina Coeling, daughter of Reverend William Coeling, at that time pastor of the First Christian Reformed Church of Pella. By buying out the interests of his brothers in the patrimonial estate, he became the sole owner and took possession of the brick home as soon as his brothers had bought farms of their own and were ready to move. The marriage was a blessed one. Mrs. Vermeer was a good housekeeper, a strong character, and a serious and conscientious Christian. Though a busy farmer's wife and the mother of several children, she delighted in entertaining her pastors at meals as they were engaged in the pastoral care called house visiting or in conducting the catechism classes of the neighborhood held in their abandoned temporary home. She never forgot that she was born and reared in the manse. For many years she was secretary of the Ladies Aid of her church. She governed her children with a firm hand, but in love.

Desiring to live nearer to town and the church, as well as to own enough land to bequeath to each of his four sons, Hendrick in 1894 sold the eighty acres, the first land owned by his father, and purchased the 300 acre Markel farm, a mile and a half northeast of Pella. This is the first farm south of the Plainview school, on the east side of the road, now being farmed by Harold Vermeer, a grandson. An enterprising farmer, Mr. Markel had made this farm one of the most desirable in the community. He had planted a large orchard with fruit trees of almost every description and kept a good garden producing a generous assortment of vegstables for the family table. A section of the farm was still woods used by the public for picnics and other recreational purposes. Here also the home was noted for its hospitality. Many a minister of the gospel and many a layman interested in Kingdom work here met a hearty welcome and entertainment. Grand Rapids students who spent the summer in Pella for the purpose of replenishing a depleted purse counted on lodging at the Vermeer home, and got it.

At this point, there ought to be mentioned an incident in the life of Jacob Markel that sheds some light on the early life of the colony. Markel was a blacksmith at Galesburg. He had just sold his property for cash when one of the notorious James gangsters entered the smithy and inquired whether he had sold his land and business. Suspecting that the information was desired for an ulterior purpose, Markel at once decided that it was time for him to leave Galesburg. So that night, with all his cash on his body, he set out for Pella, noted for its honest and upright citizens. Gripped with fear, he nervously fled all night until in the morning he was overtaken by a man kind enough to ask him to ride. This man was none other than Dr. Viersen, who gave him some wholesome advice and quieted his fears. Markel made up his mind that this was the community where he wished to live. He bought the land later sold to Hendrick Vermeer.

The immediate descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Hendrick Vermeer followed the example of their parents, with the exception of Lena, and devoted themselves to agriculture; several of their grandchildren are drifting into other vocations.

The farmhouse in which Hendrick Vermeer lived, his son Paul, and presently his grandson Harold. The front of the house (left side of the picture) was built by Jacob Markel before Hendrick Vermeer bought the farm. Hendrick built the back part of the house around 1900. In the picture are four of the children of Hendrick Vermeer: Nettie, Lena, Henry, and Bert.

Hendrick Vermeer Family Picture

Back Row: Paul, Jennie, Bertha, Bert, Nettie (Mrs. Henry), Lena, Nettie (Mrs. Neal), Neal, and Henry

Middle Row: Pauline, Josephine, Mrs. Hendrick Vermeer, John Paul, Hendrick Vermeer, Harold, Hattie, and Will

Front Row: Henry B., Ralph, Earl, and Art

Willem Vermeer Family

Will Vermeer married Hattie Van Zee in 1901 and settled on the farm owned and cultivated by his father from 1872 to 1895. This farm is located four and one-half miles northeast of Pella and is owned presently by Leslie Bogaards. When farming became too much for him, he joined the ranks of the retired farmers and moved to East Franklin Street in Pella. He was nicknamed "Cadillac Bill" because he drove a big Cadillac car and liked to pass anyone he could.

Willem Vermeer
Born: September 5, 1875
Died: February 20, 1940

Married February 14, 1901 to
Hattie Van Zee
Born: February 14, 1881
Died: April 3, 1947

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Mr. and Mrs. Willem Vermeer in front of their brick house in which their grandfather Brant, and father Hendrick also lived.

Nettie Vermeer Family

Nettie Vermeer married Neal Huyser and they lived on a farm half a mile east of Pella, where John Vink now lives. After her husband's death, she moved to 500 Franklin Street in Pella. Her son Arthur strip mines coal and owns a considerable amount of dragline equipment. Her daughter Josephine makes her home in Springfield, Illinois.

Tonia (Nettie) Vermeer
Born: November 6, 1877
Died: October 18, 1953

Married March 29, 1916 to
Cornelius W. Huyser
Born: October 17, 1873
Died: August 7, 1934

Their Children

Arthur Henry Huyser	March 16, 1917 -
Josephine Marjorie Huyser	September 29, 1919 -

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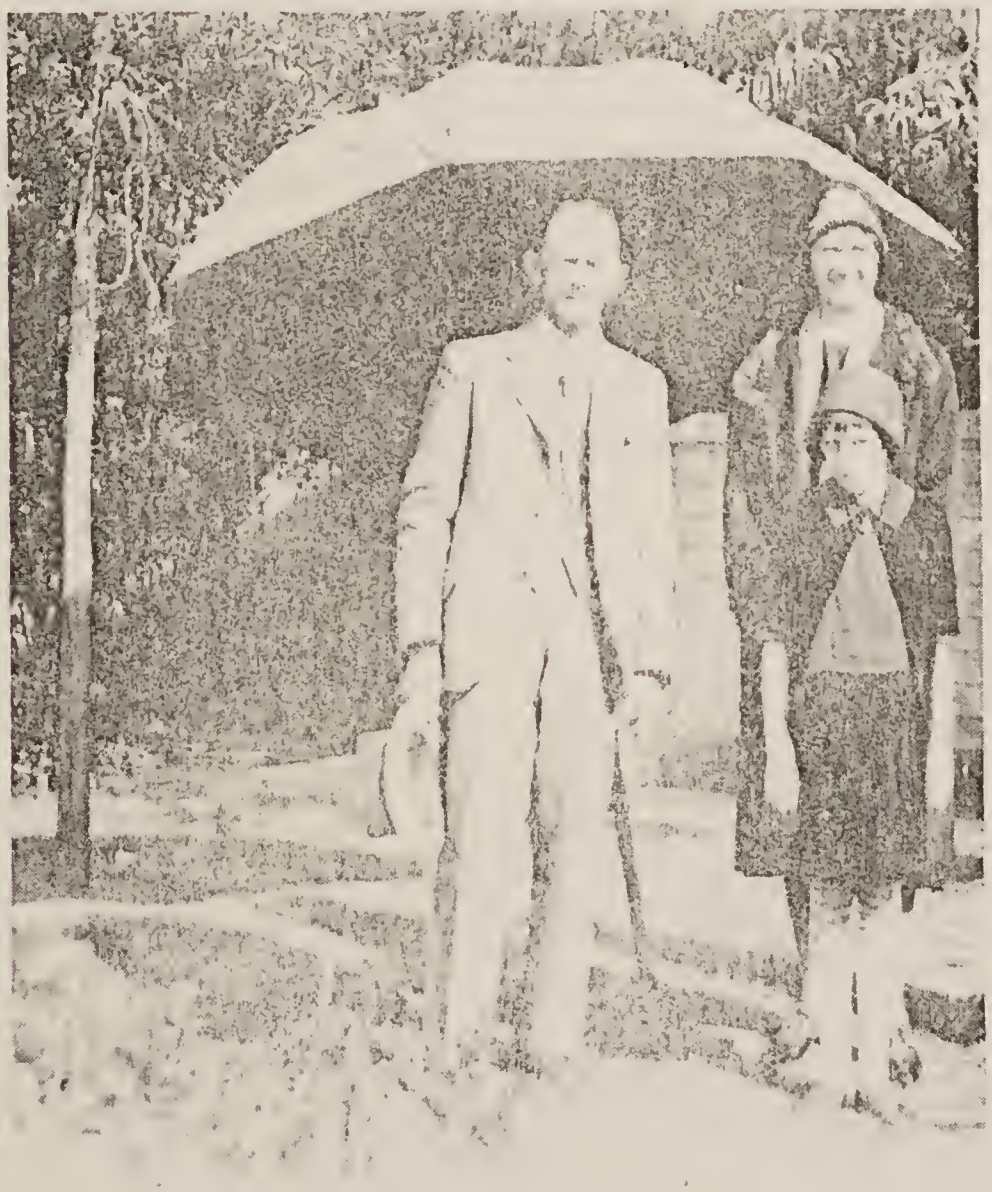

Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Huyser
and Josephine

Arthur H. Huyser
Born: March 16, 1917
Died:

Married November 5, 1937 to
Frances Elaine Halverson
Born: November 28, 1919
Died:

Their Children

Judith Ann Huyser	April 20, 1938 -
Janna Lynn Huyser	March 26, 1943 -
James Edward Huyser	May 4, 1950 -

James, Janna, Judith, Mrs. Arthur Huyser, and Arthur Huyser

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Judith Ann Huyser
Born: April 20, 1938
Died:

Married August 7, 1957 to
John Charles Toom
Born: April 29, 1937
Died:

Their Children

Julie Ann Toom	July 24, 1958 -
Joni Lynn Toom	July 3, 1959 -
Jacqueline Gay Toom	August 17, 1961 -

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Janna Lynn Huyser
Born: March 26, 1943
Died:

Married May 22, 1961 to
Thomas Harry Van Vliet
Born: February 25, 1943
Died:

Their Children

Vicki Lynn Van Vliet	October 14, 1961 -
Marty Thomas Van Vliet	June 14, 1963 -

Josephine Marjorie Huyser
Born: September 29, 1919
Died:

Married October 8, 1939 to
John Richard Mabie
Born: July 18, 1920
Died:

Their Child
Barbara Annette Mabie August 27, 1941 -

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Barbara Annette Mabie
Born: August 27, 1941
Died:

Married October 10, 1959 to
Robert Carndoff
Born: November 19, 1936
Died:

Their Child
Robert Todd Carndoff April 17, 1960 -

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Barbara, and Josephine Mabie

Bert Vermeer Family

Bert Vermeer married Bertha Nollen, scion of one of the early substantial families of Pella. Bert and Bertha lived on a farm one mile east and one-quarter mile north of Pella, where his son Henry is now living. In 1937, they moved to 911 Franklin Street in Pella. Esther is living in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where her husband is a wholesale upholsterer.

Son Ralph Vermeer was a cashier in the Marion County State Bank, a position which he forsook in 1949 to engage in the manufacturing of farm and industrial equipment with his cousin Gary Vermeer. They formed the Vermeer Manufacturing Company which now employs over one hundred persons and markets its products throughout the United States and many foreign countries. Ralph always kept his association with the Marion County State Bank, holding the office of President at the time of his death.

Mr. and Mrs.
Bert Vermeer

Brandius (Bert) Vermeer
Born: November 27, 1879
Died: March 23, 1948

Married April 8, 1908 to
Bertha Nollen
Born: October 7, 1883
Died: October 4, 1955

Their Children

Henry B. Vermeer	September 27, 1909 -
Dorothy Esther Vermeer	March 5, 1912 -
Ralph John Vermeer	August 27, 1913 - August 2, 1962

Henry B. Vermeer
Born: September 27, 1909
Died:

Married February 24, 1937 to
Viola Vroom
Born: March 16, 1914
Died:

Their Child
Karyn Lou Vermeer August 23, 1941 -

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Karyn Lou Vermeer
Born: August 23, 1941
Died:

Married January 26, 1960 to
Larry L. Renaud
Born: September 9, 1939
Died:

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Mr. and Mrs. Henry Vermeer

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Renaud

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Vander Ley

George, Frances, and Robert Vander Ley

Dorothy Esther Vermeer
Born: March 5, 1912
Died:

Married September 3, 1941 to
Frank Vander Ley
Born: August 21, 1904
Died:

Their Children

Robert John Vander Ley	July 17, 1942 -
George Brenton Vander Ley	December 3, 1943 -
Frances Carol Vander Ley	September 13, 1946 -

Ralph John Vermeer
Born: August 27, 1913
Died: August 2, 1962

Married March 8, 1957 to

Coralyn Phillips Dale
Born: June 21, 1915
Died:

Their Children

Ennis Albert Dale	April 23, 1943 -
William Grover Dale	April 13, 1944 -

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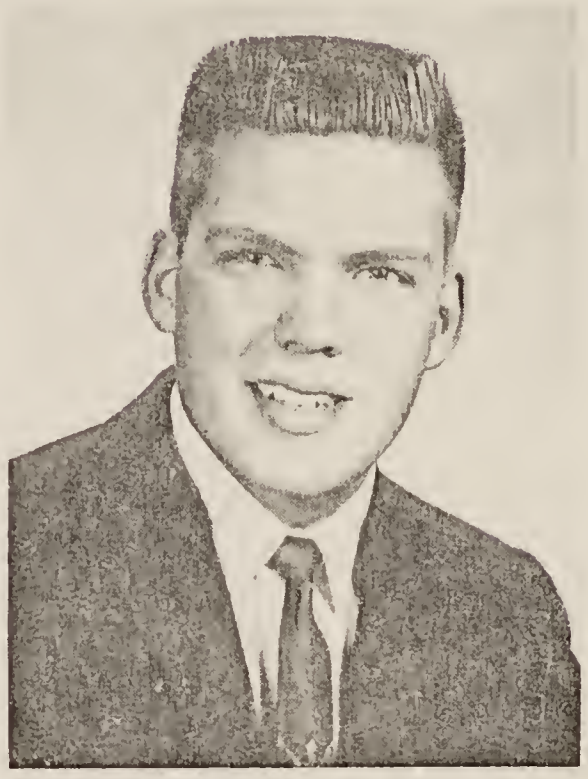
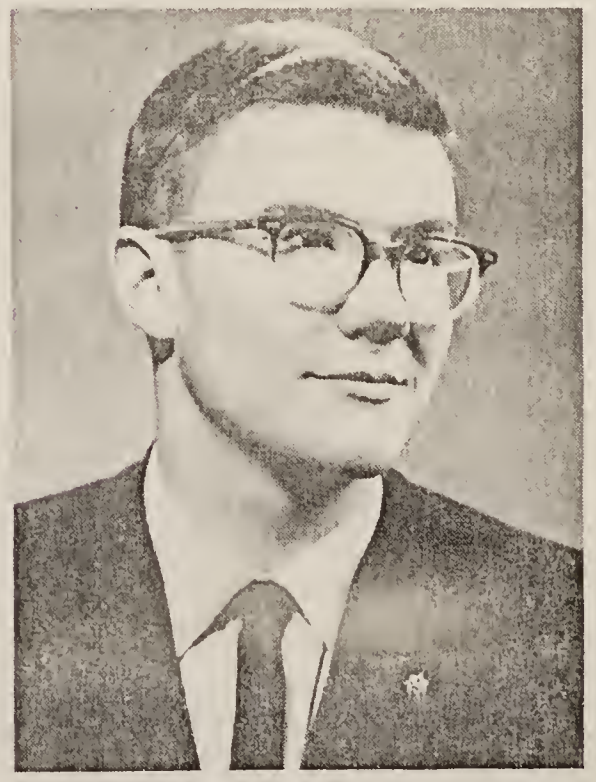
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Vermeer



Ennis Dale



William Dale

Lena Vermeer Family

Lena Vermeer married Jacob G. Vanden Bosch of Grand Rapids, Michigan. At present he is a retired professor, having been Professor of English at Calvin College for fifty years.

Roelena (Lena) Vermeer
Born: April 28, 1882
Died:

Married June 30, 1921 to
Jacob G. Vanden Bosch
Born: September 4, 1875
Died:

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Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Vanden Bosch

Henry Vermeer Family

Henry married Nettie Bogaard and lived on a farm two miles east and one mile north of Pella on a tract of land known as the Muchakineck Farm. This farm is now operated by his youngest son Willard. In 1947, Henry and Nettie moved to 608 Liberty where he lived until his death in 1960. His daughter Pauline is a registered nurse and with her husband, Dr. Nicholas Jelles, a dentist, lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Earl is employed by the Marion County State Bank and lives in Pella.

Otto Hendrick (Henry) Vermeer
Born: May 25, 1885
Died: October 12, 1960

Married February 20, 1912 to
Nettie Bogaard
Born: May 16, 1887
Died:

Their Children

Pauline Vermeer	February 22, 1913 -
Earl Nicholas Vermeer	December 31, 1917 -
Willard Vermeer	October 10, 1924 -

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Mr. and Mrs. Henry Vermeer

Dr. and Mrs. Nicholas Jelles

Pauline Vermeer
Born: February 22, 1913
Died:

Married September 1, 1939 to
Dr. Nicholas Jelles
Born: February 27, 1911
Died:

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Earl Nicholas Vermeer
Born: December 31, 1917
Died:

Married August 7, 1945 to
Etta Kallemyn
Born: May 5, 1921
Died:

Their Children

Barbara Sue Vermeer	April 2, 1949 -
Deborah Lue Vermeer	April 2, 1949 -
Beverly Vermeer	December 17, 1954 -

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Barbara, Mrs. Earl Vermeer, Beverly, Earl Vermeer, Deborah

Willard Vermeer
Born: October 10, 1924
Died:

Married September 4, 1946 to
Ruth Klyn
Born: September 4, 1927
Died:

Their Children

Kent Henry Vermeer	June 4, 1949 -
Sandra Lynn Vermeer	January 19, 1953 -

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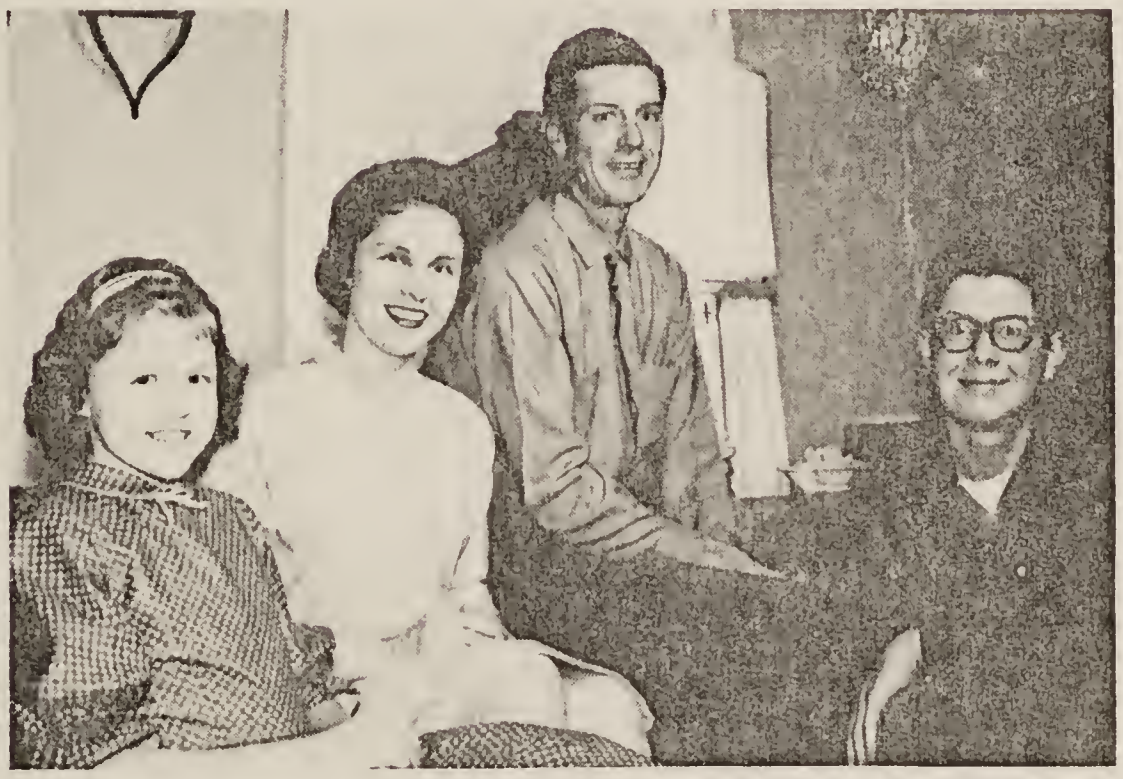

Sandra, Mrs. Willard Vermeer, Willard Vermeer, Kent

Paul Vermeer Family

Paul, the youngest son, entered wedlock with Jennie Vander Ploeg and began the enjoyment of wedded bliss on the Markel farm. Their oldest son Harold is now operating the farm, specializing in dairying. Their son John Paul is associated with his father-in-law, Tudor Kempkes, in the clothing business. Joan is a registered nurse, whose husband Carl Vogelaar was a hardware merchant in Pella, but attended New Brunswick Seminary in New Jersey, graduated from there in 1963, and is now a minister in the Reformed Church. Their youngest daughter Dorothy is married to Mentrall Qualls who is a marine in the service of the United States Navy, a vocation which causes him to be sent to different parts of the world.

John Paul (Paul) Vermeer
Born: February 3, 1892
Died:

Married February 14, 1917 to
Jennie Vander Ploeg
Born: June 10, 1894
Died:

Their Children

Harold Vermeer	February 1, 1918 -
John Paul Vermeer	February 27, 1921 -
Joan Ruth Vermeer	February 27, 1927 -
Dorothy Faye Vermeer	February 19, 1933 -

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Back Row:
Harold, John
Front Row:
Joan, Mrs. Paul Vermeer,
Paul Vermeer, and Dorothy

Harold Vermeer
Born: February 1, 1918
Died:

Married January 1, 1942 to
Jennie De Ronde
Born: April 7, 1923
Died:

Their Children

Mary Vermeer	March 28, 1946 -
Andrea Vermeer	March 30, 1951 -
David Harold Vermeer	March 13, 1953 -

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Back Row: Andrea, Mary and David
Front Row: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Vermeer

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John Paul Vermeer
Born: February 27, 1921
Died:

Married August 29, 1946 to
Virginia Kempkes
Born: January 17, 1922
Died:

Their Children

Donald Paul Vermeer	July 30, 1947 -
Martha Vermeer	June 18, 1951 -

Back Row: Martha and Donald
Front Row: Mr. and Mrs. John P. Vermeer

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Joan Vermeer
Born: February 27, 1927
Died:

Married June 10, 1948 to
Carl Vogelaar
Born: March 16, 1925
Died:

Their Children

Marla Jean Vogelaar	December 20, 1949 -
Paulette Sue Vogelaar	November 30, 1951 -
Theodore Eugene Vogelaar	December 13, 1952 -

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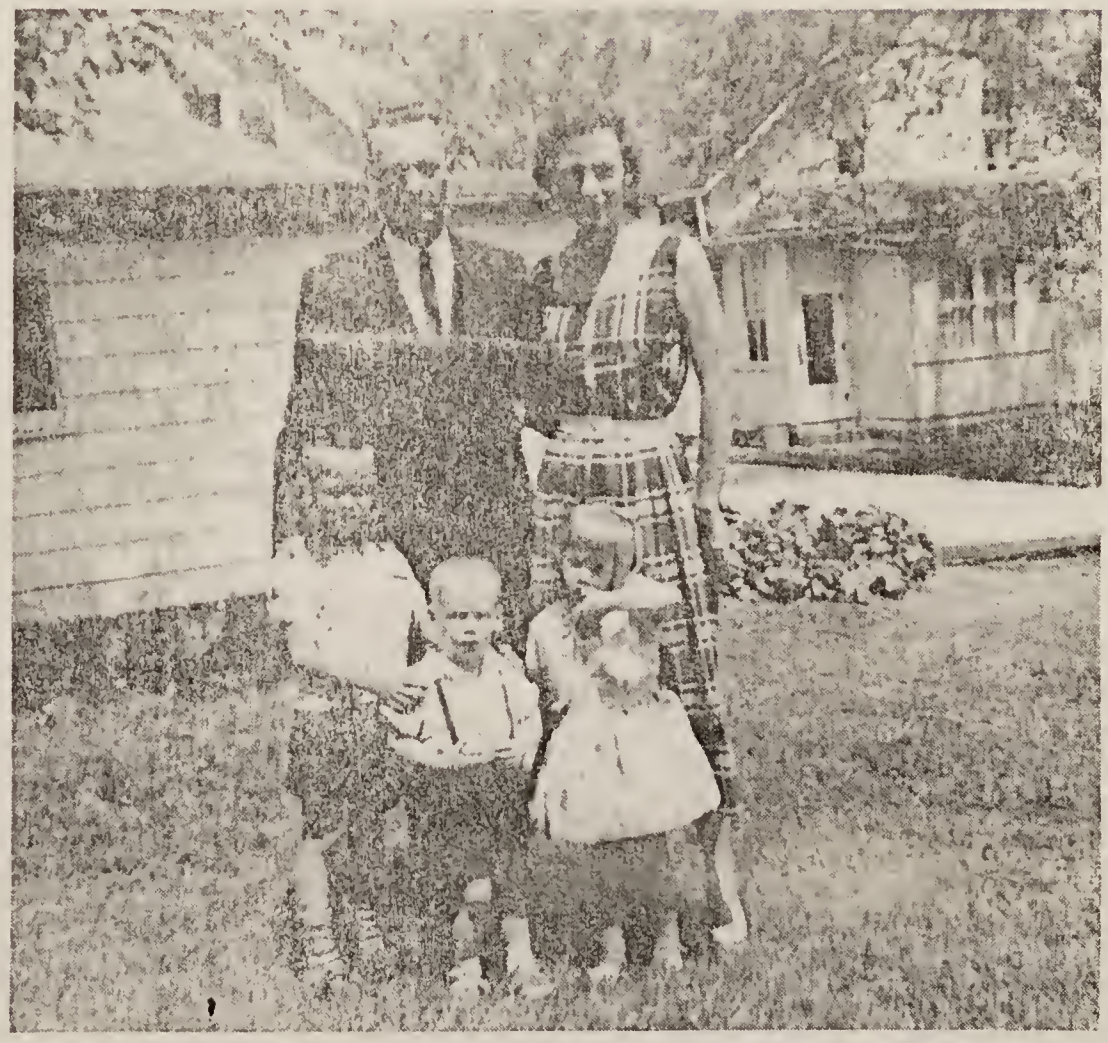
Dorothy Fay Vermeer
Born: February 19, 1933
Died:

Married January 5, 1956 to
Mentrall Qualls
Born: December 18, 1933
Died:

Their Children

Richard Qualls	January 20, 1954 -
Cassandra Qualls	January 23, 1957 -
Craig Allen Qualls	March 10, 1958 -

Paulette, Carl Vogelaar, Theodore, Mrs. Carl Vogelaar, and Marla



Back Row: Mr. and Mrs. Mentrall Qualls
Front Row: Richard, Craig, and Cassandra

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